THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

5 DAYS TO GO, RACE FOR WHITE HOUSE REMAINS RAZOR-TIGHT

The contest for the White House remained tight with Kamala Harris and Donald Trump holding rallies in key battleground state of Wisconsin. The latest CNN polls showed that Harris has a narrow advantage in Michigan and Wisconsin, while she and Trump remain tied in Pennsylvania. In Michigan, Harris holds a lead over Trump by 48% to 43% among likely voters. Harris also leads Trump in Wisconsin, where 51% support her to 45% for Trump, but the race is tied in Pennsylvania. P9

PM Modi warns of forces bent on tarnishing India

At Rashtriya Ekta Diwas event, PM exhorts people to identify & unmask 'urban Naxals'

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the Ekta Diwas Parade at the Statue of Unity at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat's Narmada district on Thursday | PTI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said certain forces, both domestic and foreign, are trying to destabilise India and tarnish the country's image. Addressing a grand Rashtriya Ekta Diwas event marking Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 149th birth anniversary near the Statue of Unity at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat, Modi also stressed the need to "identify urban Naxals and unmask them".

"Some forces, some distorted mindsets, both within and outside India, are deeply unsettled by the country's growing strength and unity. They aim to spread instability and anarchy, and are actively working against India's economic interests. These forces want to send a wrong message to global investors, painting a negative image of India," Modi said.

The same forces are targeting the armed forces with misinformation campaigns, trying to sow division within. They seek to divide India along caste lines, with the singular goal of weakening Indian society and unity. They fear a developed India because their politics thrives on a weak, poor India, he said. "For five decades, this dirty and destructive politics worked to weaken the country. We must identify the urban Naxalites. Just as we defeated Naxalism that once thrived in forests... We need to recognise those who dream of breaking India, who work under false masks to destroy the nation, and we must stand firmly against them," he said.

Inspired by Sardar Patel's vision for social unity, India is moving towards a uniform civil code — a secular civil code — that will help eliminate discrimination among different social classes, strengthen national unity, and drive the nation to achieve its goals, he said. P8

Kharge pulls up Siddu, DKS over Shakti confusion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CONGRESS president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday took Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to task over remarks on revision of the Shakti scheme (free ride for women in government buses) and said creating unnecessary confusion will only help opposition parties.

"You have implemented the five guarantees and we (Congress) are planning to emulate them in poll-bound Maharashtra. But you (Shivakumar) stated that one (Shakti guarantee) scheme would be dropped," Kharge said at a function to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel and the death anniversary of Indira Gandhi at the KPCC office here.

Shivakumar on Wednesday stated that the Shakti scheme would be revised as a section of women was in its favour.

While Shivakumar tried to convince Kharge stating that he did not mean dropping the scheme, Kharge hit back, "I have read it in newspapers, have you read it or not?" Siddaramaiah too tried to convince Kharge stating that Shivakumar had only spoken about revising the scheme. Unconvinced, Kharge said that the remarks created confusion and the rival parties would use it to their advantage.

"If we do not go as per the budget, we will go bankrupt and there will be no money to even develop roads. If this government fails, there will be nothing left to pass on to the next generation (of Congress leaders) except for the bad name and the latter has to bear the brunt for another 10 years," he said.

Stating that the Congress in Maharashtra will not announce umpteen guarantees, he said that it will stick to budgetary provisions to implement those planned.

"This is why Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi stated that he will not announce the party's promises until he is convinced that they have budgetary provisions. We have done a 15-day study to make the promises fit into the budget and will announce them in Mumbai and Nagpur soon," he said.

Kharge asked the CM and DCM to keep away from their "sycophants" who always attempt to create confusion.

Kharge clarified that he would not interfere in classification of SC quota.

CONTINUED ON: P4

AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge with CM Siddaramaiah at a function to mark Indira Gandhi's death anniversary in Bengaluru on Thursday| EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

BPL Group founder Nambiar passes away

Bengaluru: The founder of Indian electronics brand BPL Group, T P Gopalan Nambiar, passed away on Thursday at the age of 94, family sources confirmed. Nambiar, affectionately known as TPG, had been unwell for some time and he passed away at his home around 10.15am. P5

Waqf row: 5 hurt as mob attacks house

Hubballi: A local Muslim leader and four others were injured when a mob threw stones at his house at Kadakol in Haveri district on Wednesday night. Police said that a group of people resorted to stone throwing over fears that their houses were being recorded as Waqf land. As many as 32 people have been arrested. P4

Pant, Rahul & Iyer back in auction pool

Three captains — **Rishabh Pant** (Delhi Capitals), **K L Rahul** (Lucknow Super Giants) and **Shreyas Iyer** (Kolkata Knight Riders) — are back in the auction pool, as the deadline for the Indian Premier League player retentions ended on Thursday.

Mumbai Indians retained their five star players, including Hardik Pandya, Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah and Tilak Varma. They exhausted full retention purse of **₹75 cr**.

OTHER TOP STARS
Jasprit Bumrah (MI): **₹18 cr**
Sanju Samson (RR): ₹18 cr
Rashid Khan (GT): **₹18 cr**
Pat Cummins (SRH): **₹18 cr**
Yashasvi Jaiswal (RR): **₹18 cr**

TOP RETENTIONS

Among those retained, South African Heinrich Klaasen (Sunrisers Hyderabad) will be highest paid player, at **₹23 crore**. He pipped Virat Kohli (**₹21 cr**) who has been retained by RCB. Nicholas Pooran stays with LSG for same price.

MS DHONI HAS BEEN RETAINED BY CSK AS AN 'UNCAPPED PLAYER' FOR **₹4 CR**

REPORT: P11

Road rage: Five-year-old boy injured in Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a road rage incident, a five-year-old boy was injured when an unidentified cab driver threw a stone at the windshield of the car in which he was travelling along with his sister and parents.

Anoop George and his wife Jiss Jacob, both techies, were returning home in their car along with their son and 11-year-old daughter after Deepavali shopping when the incident took place at Choodasandra in Parappana Agrahara police limits on Wednesday around 9.30pm. Two bike-borne men, who chased their car, blocked it at Choodasandra and one of them threw a stone at the windshield.

After the windshield broke, pieces of glass hit the boy and he started bleeding profusely. Anoop immediately rushed him to a nearby hospital. Glass pieces pierced his head. Meanwhile, the police arrested a man, who helped the cab driver chase the couple's car on his motorcycle.

In the video, recorded by Jiss, a man can be seen asking Anoop to roll down the windshield. Unaware of what was happening, Anoop drove away. The accused, who was riding pillion, picked a stone and threw it at the windshield of Anoop's car.

CONTINUED ON: P3

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Friday: 01.11.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Dakshinayana
Ritu: Sharad • Masa: Ashwayuja • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Amavasya 4.31 pm
Nakshatra: Swathi 2.48 am • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • Rahukaala: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Gulikakala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Yamaganda: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST
Passing showers. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 06.09 am
Sunset 06.09 pm
Moonrise 04.54 am
Moonset 05.22 pm

NOW, BUY HOPCOMS PRODUCTS ONLINE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

STARTING from Thursday, Hopcoms is hosting a special fruit fair at select outlets till November 11 to celebrate Deepavali and Kannada Rajyotsava.

The Horticultural Producers' Cooperative Marketing and Processing Society (Hopcoms) also launched an online platform on Wednesday via the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to expand its reach.

Through this platform, customers can purchase Hopcoms produce using apps such as Paytm, Snapdeal and Pincode, all connected to the ONDC network. This digital move follows a successful one-year pilot aimed at making fresh produce more accessible. To further extend its online presence, Hopcoms has teamed up with Jakkur Technoparks Pvt Ltd to sell its produce on the Nearshop app, beginning November 1.

Agriculture department joint director and Hopcoms managing director Umesh Shankar Mirji highlighted that the initiative supports farmers and expands Hopcoms market reach. "Some of our outlets faced closures due to staff shortage, but we are now focusing on both in-person and online channels," he added.

The ONDC platform, a government of India initiative, enables merchants to join via seller representatives. Around 100 Hopcoms outlets in the city are already registered, with delivery charges included in product prices. Karnataka is one of the first states in the country to introduce fruits and vegetables on ONDC, apart from Delhi, which delivers dairy products.

Hopcoms has also partnered with the Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) to expand its physical sales by setting up mobile stalls at member apartment complexes. The project will be expanded citywide based on feedback.

A delegation led by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar with Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw at the latter's residence on Wednesday

DKS MEETS KIRAN, SEEKS IDEAS ON IMPROVING INFRA

Discuss better drainage system, garbage management, protection of lakes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DAYS after BT major Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw put up a series of social media posts about crumbling infrastructure in the city and flooding in the IT corridor, a delegation led by Deputy Chief Minister (DCM) and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar met her at her residence on Wednesday evening and discussed the city's pressing issues.

The delegation had various bureaucrats, including Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath, BDA Commissioner N Jayaram, DCM's secretary Rajendra Cholan, besides Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, Prashant Prakash from Unboxing Bengaluru, architect Naresh Narasimhan and others.

According to an official who was part of the delegation, the meeting was not just a courtesy meeting for Deepavali. "It was brainstorming exercise with an aim to fix Bengaluru's road infrastructure, especially in the IT corridor from Hebbal Outer Ring Road, KR Puram, Mahadevapura, Whitefield, Marathahalli Outer Ring Road, Sarjapura, Bommanahalli and Electronics City."

An urban expert who was present at the meeting, stated that apart from road infrastructure, issues like better drainage system, garbage management, protection of water bodies and its improvement were also part of the discussion, and the DCM sought corporates' help in improving the city infrastructure and its image.

Following the meeting, the DCM stated that it was a productive meeting with discussions on Bengaluru's pressing issues with key stakeholders, and thanked the participants for sharing their insights. "I am sure that our collaborative efforts will drive Bengaluru's growth and progress," he added.

Shaw reciprocated via her social media handle with, "Thank you for engaging us and assuring us of supporting key projects that will solve the infra challenges of roads, sewage and garbage. Together we will build a world class city and your leadership will realise this aspirational vision."

Shaw's back-to-back posts on October 25 morning on damaged roads in Bommanahalli, following heavy rain, went viral. The Biocon chief seemed upset with the IT capital's road infrastructure due to potholes and hours-long traffic jams during rain due to a bad drainage system.

She had also stated that ELCITA (Electronics City Industrial Township Authority) uses RoadMetrics, an AI tool, to scan roads every fortnight for defects. This data allows them to fix issues quickly before they worsen, she stated, recommending that "ELCITA ought to be given a contract to fix city's roads, not BBMP contractors".

BCU invites applications for PG courses

Bengaluru: The Bangalore City University has invited applications for the second round of admissions to the remaining seats in post-graduate courses. Applications can be submitted till November 4. The last date for submission with penal fee of Rs 200 is November 5. The eligibility list and counselling will be held on November 7. For further details on eligibility, seat matrix and course fees, students can visit the Bangalore City University website: http://bcu.ac.in. **ENS**

Activists want skydeck cost for better roads

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE BBMP issued a notification on Wednesday, regarding Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar's dream project -- the 250-metre-high skydeck -- which is said to be valued at Rs 500 crore. As per the notification, the proposed project will come up at Hemmigepura, near Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) land, and objections have been invited from the public. The last date to send the objections is November 5.

Following this development, residents and activists have launched a scathing attack on the Palike and Shivakumar, saying that Rs 500 crore for a skydeck is not worth, when city roads are in bad shape and people end up getting injured.

"People in Mahadevapura, and also in other parts of the IT corridor, are suffering because of the bad roads. There are cases of injury. The DCM and BBMP should use Rs 500 crore to fix roads than investing in such projects," said Ashok Mrutyunjaya, vice-president, Bengaluru City, AAP.

Echoing a similar sentiment, another resident and social activist said the DCM should first ensure the safety of Bengalureans, before laying his hands on such projects, adding, "Clear garbage, ensure there is no water stagnation during rain, and also overflow of sewage lines. Fix potholes. This is what Bengaluru needs at the moment."

BBMP has defended the project, saying the idea behind it is to allow visitors to experience Bengaluru from a unique perspective, in addition to generating employment opportunities, boosting local revenue and contributing to the city's economic growth, besides offering breathtaking views.

Earlier, NGEF in Benniganahalli, Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited in Yeshwantapura, Karnataka Trade Promotion Organization in Whitefield, GKVK in Jakkur, Race Course, and Palace Grounds were identified for the project. However, they were not considered due to safety concerns, considering their proximity to Kempegowda International Airport, Yelahanka Air Force Station, HAL Airport, and Jakkur Flying School. Hence, alternate locations in West and South-West Bengaluru were proposed and Hemmigepura was finalised.

SO LONG, B'LURU

The KSRTC bus station at Majestic was jampacked on Wednesday night with people either leaving for their hometowns or going on vacations due to the extended Deepavali weekend from Thursday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

6 scientists to get IISc alumni awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has selected six exceptional scientists and engineers as recipients of its 2024 Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Awards, while also introducing the Young Alumnus/Alumna Medals for alumni under the age of 40. These awards celebrate the significant contributions that IISc alumni have made to their respective fields, society, and the institute itself.

InfoNet of Things Founder and CEO George Brody serves as the chair of the board at TurboStart, and President of the IISc foundation in the USA. Brody has made extensive contributions to technology leadership across both corporate and startup ecosystems, and has led efforts to establish the IISc foundation in the USA where he continues to coordinate its activities.

Another awardee, Sridevi Jade, is a scientist and head of the CSIR-Fourth Paradigm Institute, as well as a Professor at AcSIR in Bengaluru. She is recognised for pioneering the use of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) data to analyse seismic properties in challenging terrains within the Indian Plate. She has also led several multi-institutional collaborations focused on hazard mitigation in India.

Jagjit Nanda, George Brody, Sridevi Jade

Shekhar Chintamani Mande, another honouree, is a JC Bose Fellow at the National Centre for Cell Science and a Distinguished Professor at Savitribai Phule Pune University. Mande, who previously served as the Director General of CSIR, has made significant contributions to structural biology and X-ray crystallography as well as science and technology leadership in addressing major challenges, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

S Unnikrishnan Nair, Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Kerala, is known for his exceptional contributions to aerospace systems, particularly in the development of space transportation mechanisms for key ISRO programmes.

Jagjit Nanda served as a distinguished scientist at SLAC National Laboratory and Executive Director of the SLAC-Stanford Battery Centre. He has pioneered discoveries in advanced lithium, sodium, and solid-state batteries and has led one of the leading centres on battery and energy storage.

Yadati Narahari, Professor at the Department of Computer Science and Automation at IISc, is acknowledged for pioneering research in game theory, mechanism design, and artificial intelligence, as well as for applying these concepts in electronic auctions, markets, and agriculture.

In the newly established young alumni category Himabindu Lakkaraju and Nihar Bhadresh Shah were selected as medalists. These alumni will be honoured at a ceremony scheduled for December.

601 IIM-B students bag summer internship

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS many as 601 students of the 2024-26 batch of IIM-Bengaluru's Post-Graduate Programme and Post-Graduate Programme in Business Analytics (PGP-BA) secured summer internships during the institute's recent placement process. A total of 140 organisations participated with Accenture Strategy making a record-breaking number of offers.

"Management consulting remains the top choice among our students, accounting for 38% of the offers," Tapas Ranjan Pati, head of career development services, said, adding that Accenture Strategy set a new benchmark with its record offers. Accenture Strategy alone extended 96 offers, the highest among the 22 consulting firms, which collectively made 230 offers. Other notable consulting recruiters included Boston Consulting Group (22 offers) and Tata Consultancy Services (17 offers).

The FMCG and retail sector attracted significant interest, with 19 companies offering 58 internships. Leading recruiters in this category included Hindustan Unilever with 10 offers and Procter & Gamble with seven offers. In the e-commerce, payments and telecom sectors, American Express (11 offers), Amazon (9 offers) and Delhivery (8 offers) were among the top recruiters.

Healthcare companies, including Sun Pharmaceuticals and AstraZeneca, also made placements, with six firms extending offers. Additionally, three organisations from the foundations, governance and education sectors participated in the placement process.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

01st November: Today I'd like to talk about Pisces. This sensitive sign is the last in the zodiac. Some astrologers say that symbolically this means that it has learned the lessons of the previous eleven signs and is therefore the wisest. On the other hand, while Pisces may be wise, it is also the least practical sign!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
As Saturn, planet of burdens and responsibilities plays its full part, the message is clear: the worst is over. But it could be a little while yet before you have to cope with the results of this week's changing responsibilities. I know you're bogged down by the trees, but do try to see the wood!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The weekend will be an ideal time to let off steam, so try and find constructive ways to discharge your excess energy. Family members are likely to find you responsible for matters which are none of your business, and they may need placating. But at least you'll have a chance to flex your creative muscles.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
No one and nothing can prevent you from getting your way. Only your own impatience, impulsiveness and refusal to listen to reason can sabotage or undermine your credibility. In love, take your time, and persuade a partner that you are on the right track.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Financial questions are being brought into perspective by Mercury's uncompromising relationships. Hard choices are necessary and you may be forced to draw in your horns, if only briefly. At least it's now much easier to make up your mind on practical choices.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Even a major move or upheaval on the home front will be to your advantage in the long-term, so don't flinch or fudge the issues. By the beginning of next week you'll have a much clearer idea of where you're heading, partly because you'll have forgotten what happened last week!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Don't go the whole hog over finances, at least not yet. You see, the planets are beginning to assume a very fortunate position, but just for now they are still spreading confusion. If you have a problem, it's impatience and a tendency to try to get to the finishing post before you've started!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Of course you would like to be in a much better position - who wouldn't? But you have to understand that your Libran perfectionism makes it so hard to accept anything but the very best. Many of you have decided that your independence is worth more than an old, tired emotional tie.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
On the home front, it really does seem to be a case of least said, soonest mended. Save your energy for professional ambitions and worldly achievements. Overseas romance beckons for travelling Scorpios, but you could be swept away by a place as much as a person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
I have written a great deal about your monetary situation in recent times, and as you know only too well, you are over-committed financially. There may be much to be said for borrowing a little extra, just as long as no strings are involved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Although you should now be on much firmer ground when contesting controversial actions and statements, there seems to be little chance of getting other people to see things your way. Unless, that is, you bend the rules and fudge the issues. And I am sure you can do it!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Mercury's current aspects are bright and witty. You must choose your words and timing with the utmost care and on no account offend or alienate people with whom you must remain friends. It's all a matter of discovering your secret, diplomatic skills.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You may have over-reacted to emotional situations in the past, but then what else would we expect from a sensitive Piscean? I have a feeling you'll be over-reacting again in the very near future! But then why shouldn't you? Isn't it true that you have given away too much ground in the past?

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

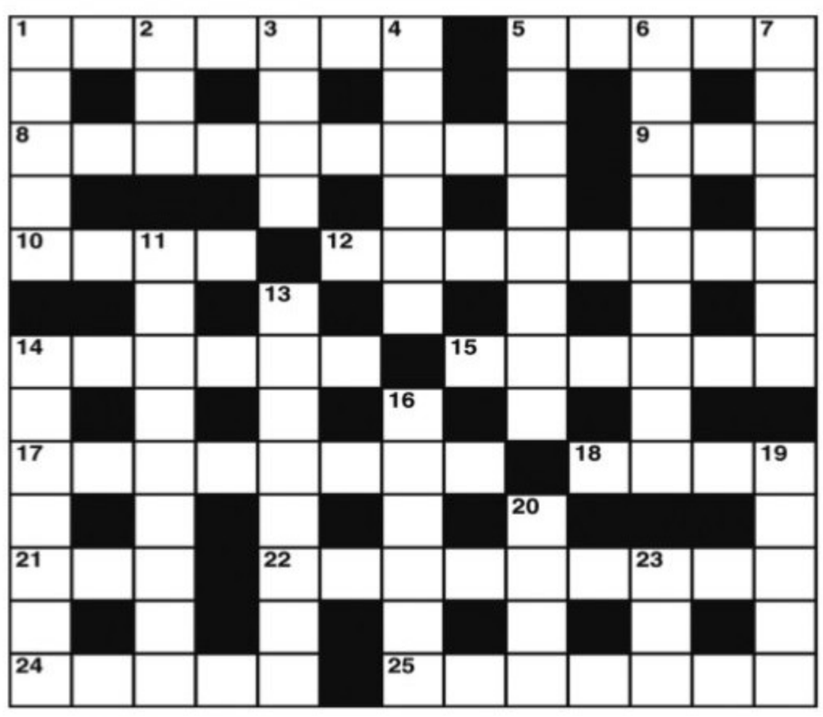
5	9			4		2		
8	1		6					
	6					3	1	9
		6	7	2	5	1		
1								6
		2	1	6	8	5		
3	4	9					8	
					9		3	2
		8		7			4	1

9	1	3	6	5	7	2	8	4
2	4	6	9	8	3	7	1	5
7	8	5	1	2	4	9	6	3
5	6	7	8	4	2	3	9	1
4	3	9	5	7	1	6	2	8
8	2	1	3	9	6	5	4	7
6	7	2	4	1	5	8	3	9
3	9	4	7	6	8	1	5	2
1	5	8	2	3	9	4	7	6

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3 X 3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 The lethargy I retain however moved (7)
5 Eye-catching gadgets (5)
8 Professorial sinecure to fall back on? (4,5)
9 Harold stopped missing Edward (3)
10 Nothing much around to plunder (4)
12 Get testy having to play chic role (8)
14 An egg I scrambled; obviously not new-laid (6)
15 An extremely self-conscious person (6)
17 Field division that takes years to train (8)
18 Brave man; he has heart of iron (4)
21 In short I had a name for her (3)
22 Command rests with those on duty (9)
24 Principle of having it both ways? (5)
25 Rewards fashion designers (7)

DOWN
1 One sort of wood that's without flaws (5)
2 Printer's measures - they're back inside (3)
3 Take another course in sewing (4)
4 One is not eager to show it (6)
5 If you study it you may become an expert in time (8)
6 White? Rose provided if not (9)
7 Extremely lawful to ask (7)
11 Exaggerated account discredited (9)
13 How the stomach may feel with liver not in order? (2,6)
14 Unbeliever is at the assembly (7)
16 Wealthy drunk (6)
19 Deserted place of refreshment? (5)
20 An uplifting tune for singing (4)
23 It's easily slipped on (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Presumed, 5 Mass, 9 Ducal, 10 Rancour, 11 Practitioner, 13 Potash, 14 Script, 17 Cartographer, 20 Figment, 21 Inapt, 22 Cato, 23 Defender.

Down: 1 Pads, 2 Excerpt, 3 Ugly customer, 4 Earwig, 6 Acorn, 7 Sorority, 8 Indiscipline, 12 Specific, 15 Ireland, 16 Writhe, 18 Right, 19 Star.

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIPYM

HSWSI

KEAANW

DBHIYR

Get the free JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"____ - ____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PAUSE EXERT BOGGLE AWHILE
Answer: Being afraid to go to bed in the dark made their son a — LIGHT SLEEPER

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MP Jagadish Shettar said legal action should be initiated against authorities of Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences if it is found that the deaths of 41 infants were due to their negligence. Shettar said the government should launch an investigation into the issue and ensure that the guilty are punished

COURT DISMISSES BAIL PLEA OF 4 ACCUSED

SPP says ED's complaint indicated that petitioners had assisted former minister B Nagendra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

ST CORPORATION CASE

A special court in the city dismissed the anticipatory bail petitions filed by Nekkanti Nagaraj, B Ramesh, Edara Rudrayya and B Vijaya Kumar Gowda, accused in the case registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the alleged scam in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, on the ground that they have not justified the apprehension of their arrest.

Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, Special Court judge for the trial of cases against sitting and former MLAs/MPs, dismissed the anticipatory bail petitions.

Citing the judgment of the apex court in the Tarsem Lal versus ED case, the special court said the accused could not be taken into custody at the stage of post-cognisance under Section 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The apex court clarified that if ED wants custody of the accused, who appear after summons were served for conducting further investigation in the same offence, the ED will have to seek custody by applying to the special court which is required to pass a reasoning order on the said application. In the wake of this, the accused can only be remanded to custody on the application filed by ED with reasons stating that their custodial interrogation is required, the special court said.

Senior counsel Hasmath Pasha vehemently argued that the filing of a chargesheet and order of summons being issued by the court by itself would justify the apprehension of arrest. Time and again, the apex court has held that mere apprehension of arrest itself is sufficient to file necessary anticipatory bail, he argued.

However, Special Public Prosecutor P Prasanna Kumar refuted the submissions but said there are strong prima facie materials available in this case against the petitioners. The ED's complaint indicated that the petitioners had assisted the former minister for Scheduled Tribe Affairs B Nagendra, accused No.1, who was overseeing the functioning of the corporation.

SHOWER OF LIGHT

Children light sparklers during the Deepavali festival at Basavangudi on Thursday night | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Man arrested in road rage incident

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE family was unaware of what triggered the accused to stop their car and throw stone. After the incident, both the miscreants fled the scene. Anoop posted the video on X and tagged it to the police for speedy action. The police, who swung into action, arrested Krishnamurthy, 24, a resident of Choodasandra.

"Krishnamurthy has no role in the incident. He was returning home on his bike on Wednesday night. He saw the cab driver seeking lift. The driver told him that the techie after damaging his car was speeding away. Krishnamurthy and the cab driver chased the car and blocked it near Choodasandra. The cab driver after throwing the stone at the car escaped," said a police officer.

A search is on for the accused cab driver.

Six cops get Union Home Minister's Medal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

SIX officers from Karnataka have been awarded the 'Kendriya Grihamantri Dakshata Padak' (Union Home Minister's Medal) for the year 2024. K Basawaraj, DySP, Internal Security Division; VL Ramesh, ACP, Bengaluru city; Umesh N Kambale, Inspector, Raichur district; Narendra Babu MR, Inspector, CID; Vasanth KM, Inspector, Hassan district, and Ramesh H Hanapur, Inspector, Karwar district, will receive the medal for excellence in investigation. Dr Praveen U Sanganalmath, Deputy Director, Forensic Science Laboratory, Belagavi, has been selected for excellence in forensic science.

EXPRESS READ

Four drug peddlers nabbed, 7 kg of ganja seized

Bengaluru: The city police arrested four drug peddlers in the last one week and seized 7 kg of ganja (marijuana) worth around Rs 3 lakh. An autorickshaw, a two-wheeler and mobile phones were also recovered from the accused. P Wasim Pasha (45) of Fraser Town and V Harish (24) of Vijinapura were arrested by the the Ramamurthy Nagar police. Arbaz Khan (29) of Bapujinagar was arrested by the Basavanagudi police and 32-year-old S Tajamul Shareef of Hegde Nagar was nabbed by the Sampigehalli police. The police are on the lookout for Shareef's associate. ENS

KSOU admission starts, apply till Nov 15

Bengaluru: The Mysuru-based Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) has started the admission process for the academic year 2024-25 (July cycle) for under-graduate and post-graduate courses. Students can download the prospectus on KSOU's official website: www.ksoumysuru.ac.in. Students can pursue two degrees simultaneously through ODL mode. The eligibility criteria and fees structure are mentioned in the prospectus. The last date for admission is November 15. ENS

Decomposed body of UoM staff found in car

Mysuru: The body of a clerk from University of Mysore (UoM) was found in a decomposed state inside his car. The incident came to light near the Mahadeshwara Temple on Adichunchanagiri Road on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Shivakumar (35) who worked as a clerk at the UoM. Shivakumar had married his long-time girlfriend a few years ago. Meanwhile, locals noticed a foul smell coming from a parked car and alerted the Ashokapuram police. When the police arrived at the scene and conducted an inspection, they discovered Shivakumar's decomposed body inside the vehicle. ENS

City hospitals see multiple cracker-related eye injuries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MULTIPLE incidents of firecracker-related eye injuries were reported across the city during the Deepavali festivities from October 29 till Thursday night.

Minto Hospital reported three incidents since Tuesday. An 18-year-old bystander was seriously injured in a cracker burst on October 29. On October 30, a five-year-old boy, Idris Khan, sustained a cracker injury bursting crackers in Kanakapura. He was brought to the hospital with a full thickness corneal tear, iris prolapse and total hyphema in his right eye. On Thursday, a 17-year-old youth was admitted with cracker injuries and is currently under conservative supervision.

Narayana Nethralaya handled three such cases, with two incidents, including one involving a young girl, treated at the Rajajinagar branch and one case at the Bannerghatta branch.

Shekhar Eye Hospital also recorded two cases. A seven-year-old child suffered a corneal abrasion on Wednesday night, requiring pad and bandage treatment and a 69-year-old individual reported an eyelid injury on Thursday.

Sankara Eye Hospital near Kundalahalli Gate saw three serious incidents. A three-year-old girl suffered a corneal injury due to a third-party incident while a 10-year-old boy experienced self-inflicted injuries after lighting a firecracker. He had approached the cracker to see why it had not burst, resulting in a delayed explosion that caused significant damage. Medical professionals are currently awaiting a retina evaluation for the boy. An eight-year-old boy sustained a serious injury with an iris prolapse and surgery was performed.

Parents and guardians are urged to exercise caution and supervise children closely when firecrackers are being burst. For injury-related assistance, people can call helpline numbers: 080-69038900 and 9739883996 (Sankara Eye Hospital), 83101 60947 (Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital).

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE
Original Application No.1800/2023
Canara Bank ...Applicant
Versus
Sri Anand Raj T., Proprietor of Sai Akshaya Electrical ...Defendant
SUMMONS /NOTICE TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, Defendant

1. Sri Anand Raj T., S/o. Sri G. Thammaiah, Proprietor of M/s. Akshaya Electrical, aged about 45 years, at: No. 123, Hennur Main Road, Kacharakanahalli, St. Thomas Town Post, Bangalore - 560 084.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.2,17,29,908/-** (Rupees Two Crore Seventeen Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Eight Only) mentioned therein together with current and future interest and other reliefs. The above defendants are therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense within 30 days from the date of publication or on **03.12.2024 at 10.30 am** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **30.09.2024.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II Bangalore
Advocate for Applicant Bank
Mrs. Malini Vinay

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I (KARNATAKA) AT BENGALURU
BSNL Building, 4th Floor,
Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001
O. A. No.1534/2019
Between : Karnataka Bank Ltd., ...Applicant
And
Sri P. Vijaykumar & 3 Others ....Defendants
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES

To: Mr. Y. Narasa Raju, Aged about 71 years, S/o. Sri Y. Muniswamy, residing at No. 29, 9th Cross, Swimming Pool Extension, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003. **....Defendant No. 3**

Whereas the Applicant Bank above named has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against you, for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 32,86,44,008.58** (Rupees Thirty two crores eighty six lakhs forty four thousand and eight and paise fifty eight) only together with interest, costs and for other reliefs. You are therefore directed to appear before this Hon'ble Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent in support of your defence, if any, and show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on or before **02-12-2024** at **10.30 A.M.** as to why the reliefs prayed for by the Applicant Bank against you, should not be granted.

Take Notice that in case of your default, the Applicant will be heard and the case determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Tribunal on This **19th Day of October 2024.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I, Bangalore

TIGER EDUCATION SOCIETY
GOVINAPURA, Tipatur taluk, Tumakuru District
(Reg No. S.O.C. 02/89-90 dated 04-04-1989)

Applications are invited for the post of Physical Education Faculty/ lecture, for our institution Arunodaya pre-university college, Ajjampura, Chikkamagaluru Dist. run by Tiger Education Society (R). The college is a government aided institution. As per the Govt., Notification No.ED 71 TPU 2013, dated 30.07.2014. Accordingly, as per Government letter No. ED 43TPU 2018 dated 31.10.2019, applications are invited from eligible candidates to fill the position of Physical Education Lecturer under the Grant scames as follows.

Sl No	Job Description	No of Posts	Education Qualifaction	Reservation	Salary and Grade	Age Limit	Last Date to Application
1	Physical Education Lecturer	01	MP.Ed Minimum 55% Marks required	Not Applicable	69250 69250-134200	Since no reservation applies the age limit set for General Candidates as well as for those from Sc/St and other categories is as per Government regulations	22-11-2024 by 5.30PM

Interested candidates can apply on or before 22-11-20124 till 5.30 pm along with demand draft of Rs. 500 in favour of, The Secretary, Tiger Education Society, Govinapura, Tipatur taluk Tumakuru district. Candidates have to submit the application along with duly attested testimonials that includes education qualification and age proof. Application have to be sent through registered post to the Management and a copy to the Deputy director of Pre University Education (DDPU), Chikkamagaluru. Applications received after the last date will not be considered/entertained. Interview date would be intimated to the candidates by post.

Sd/- The Secretary,
Tiger Education Society, Govinapura, Tipatur taluk, Tumakuru district.

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/TE/JJM/Kppp-Proc/2024-25/1264 **Date : 29.10.2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kppp-procurement)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga. **Indent Nos: (1) RWSSD/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT8422**

Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only. **Few conditions of the tender :** (1) The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors : **05.11.2024 at 4.30 P M.** (2) Date of opening of Double Cover Technical bid : **07.11.2024 at 11.30 A M.** (3) Date of opening of Double Cover Financial bid : **09.11.2024 at 11.30 A M.** (5) Specified time period for completion of works : **06 months.**

DIPR/SMG/No.165-10
zenkar/2023-24

sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

GADAG BETAGERI CITY MUNCIPAL COUNCIL OFFICE - 582101
DIST:GADAG **STATE: KARNATAKA**
Ph: 08372-259932 **Email: ka.gadag.betageri.cmc@gmail.com**

No. GBCMC/T.S/E.D/Street Light/2024-25 **Date: 30-10-2024**

ANNUAL O&M SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited as per Karnataka Transparency in public Procurement Act 1999. 2000 subject to Standard Tender Document Rules through e-procurement 2,00 portal in two cover system from registered 1" class electrical contractors for ANNUAL MAINTAINANCE OF STREET LIGHT FROM WARD NO 1 TO 35 IN GADAG BETAGERI TWIN CITY LIMITS IN THE YEAR OF 2024-25 (under City Municipal Council General Grant 2024-25). Therefore tender can be submitted through e-procurement portal website. www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and for further details the website of this office www.gadag-betagericity.gov.in can be viewed.

Details of work Description

Sl. NO	Indent No	Details of Work	Tender E.M.D (in Rs)
1	DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_Indent-30475	ANNUAL MAINTAINANACE OF STREET LIGHT FROM WARD NO 1 TO 35 IN GADAG - BETAGERI CITY LIMITS IN THE YEAR OF 2024-25	200000.00

Tender Schedule Dates under Kppp Portal system are as below:
1) Last date of for submission of tender : 13-11-2024 upto 4-00 PM
2) Date of Opening technical bid: 14-11-2024 at 4-30 PM.
3) Date of opening financial bid: 22-11-2024 at 4-30 PM.

Sd/- Shri H.A.Bandivaddar (Incharge)
Municipal Commissioner
CMC Gadag-Betageri

DIPR/Gadag/345/DeshpandePublicity/2024-25

Sd/- Shri Govind Reddy I.A.S
Administrator CMC Gadag-Betageri
And Deputy Commissioner Gadag

Forest, Ecology & Environment Department and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Sri Siddaramaiah,
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Let's celebrate this DEEPAVALI Eco-friendly...

Scan QR Code from your smart phone for Hon'ble Chief Minister's message.

Wishing all a Happy Deepavali Festival

As per the directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 31.10.2010 and 23.10.2018

- ✓ Say no to banned fireworks that cause sound and air pollution
- ✓ Crackers emitting more than 125 decibels of sound are banned.
- ✓ On Deepavali days, fireworks are allowed only between 8 and 10 pm.
- ✓ Crackers with chemical and metal contents are harmful to health
- ✓ Only green crackers that cause less pollution are permitted.

Thamaso maa Jyotirgamaya...
Let's celebrate the festival of lights that removes the glooming darkness of ignorance and disseminates the brightness of knowledge by lighting lamps

Let's distribute sweets to celebrate
Let's light the diyas and celebrate the festival with a divine feel

Save the nature and environment. Avoid hazards to the ecology

Sri Eshwar B Khandre
Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment during the press meet regarding green crackers.

Let's light the diyas
Stay away from crackers

Scan QR Code from your smart phone for Hon'ble Minister's message.

Chairman
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

Member Secretary
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
"Parisara Bhavan', No.49, Church Street, Bengaluru-01.
Ph: 080-25586520, 25589112, 25588142
Fax: 080-25588321.
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in
Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

Gangavati MLA and former minister B Janardhana Reddy faced opposition from angry farmers who disrupted his speech when he was campaigning for BJP candidate Bangaru Hanumanthu at Kudatini village in Sandur bypoll constituency on Wednesday

KDA working on 'accurate' Kannada translation software

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Kannada Development Authority (KDA) is coming up with its own translation engine, which it claims is more accurate than any other software, as it utilises words from over 80 Kannada dictionaries. The KDA's translation engine in under development, and along with the mobile application, is expected to be launched in January.

The software popular with users is Google Translate -- from Kannada to English and English to Kannada -- for translation which is not quite accurate, KDA chairman Purushotham Bilimele told TNIE. Explaining the difference between Google Translate and KDA's new translation engine, Purushottam said Kannada is a peculiar language with words ending in vowels. Though all Dravidian languages sound similar, many of these languages ends in consonants.

"Keeping these technical aspects in mind, we have designed a system which is accurate. Since Kannada words end with vowels like uu, aa, ee, translation issues are different for the translation engine," he said.

KDA has already uploaded 1.5 lakh words from 80 Kannada dictionaries. "Ours is more accurate, it has been designed in such a way that even after translation, the meaning of words remains intact. This can be translated from Kannada to English and vice-versa. We wanted to launch it on Kannada Rajyotsava, but there is some more work to be done. There are about 50,000 more words to be added which will take another two months," he said.

According to Purushottam, Google Translate has close to three lakh words, and KDA's translation will have two lakh words. "We have not included all English words, especially technical words," he said. Once this is done, they plan to take up Kannada-Hindi and Hindi-Kannada translation.

The KDA chairman said they have often seen many Kannada translations go wrong, including billboards and name boards. This is because Google Translate is not accurate and sometimes, it gives a different meaning too. "Since we have language experts, translation is more accurate," he added.

Asked if the Kannada dictionary includes regional dialects which are different across Karnataka, Purushotham said they have opted for basic Kannada, which is understood by all. "Ours is suited for Kannada newspapers and not Kannada textbooks," he said.

Guv wishes people on Rajyotsava

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot extended wishes to people on the eve of Kannada Rajyotsava. "Heartfelt greetings to everyone on Kannada Rajyotsava. As we celebrate Karnataka's unification on November 1, let us cherish the rich cultural heritage of our state. Today, we honour the visionaries who devoted themselves to Karnataka's unity and prosperity," he stated. **ENS**

AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge, CM Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar offer floral tributes to former PM Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary and former deputy PM Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary in Bengaluru on Thursday | EXPRESS

CM says Shakti will stay, Oppn sees plot to scrap it

BJP, JDS seize on DCM's remarks, say Cong trying to phase out schemes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's remarks that many women are ready to forgo the free bus travel under the Shakti scheme sparked a political slugfest with opposition leaders terming it a plot to halt the scheme.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, however, clarified that there was no proposal before the government to revise the scheme. Speaking to media persons, the CM made it clear that the government has no such intention.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy also said the Shakti scheme will neither be dropped nor revised.

"Some women who travel by Benz cars might have suggested to the DCM to revise the scheme," he said with sarcasm. The scheme will be continued for another 3.5 years and also for another five years as the Congress will come back to power again in 2028, he said.

However, Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy termed the DyCM's remarks as a plot to halt the scheme. "Did women appear in a dream to Shivakumar and ask him to stop the Shakti scheme? This is just the first step in their plan to halt the five guarantees, one by one," he said.

Speaking to the media while campaigning in Tittamarahalli village in Channapatna constituency on Thursday, Kumaraswamy said the government will soon end schemes like Anna Bhagya, Gruha Jyothi, Gruha Lakshmi and Yuva Nidhi, all under the pretense of review.

Hitting out at the DyCM, the JDS leader said, "Who is tweeting, claiming that women are demanding the end of the Shakti Scheme? Have women suddenly become economically empowered, according to them? Have they achieved financial strength in just one and a half years?"

Kumaraswamy argued that the so-called review of the Shakti scheme is just the beginning of phasing out the guarantees one by one. This review is simply a pretense to halt the guarantees. Since coming to power, the government has been using these guarantees to brainwash people, thereby halting development projects entirely, he said.

He further criticised the government for burdening people in the name of guarantees, taking their money and distributing it in bits. "With unrealistic promises made to win the election, they have put the state in ruin," he said.

Kumaraswamy said he is not against giving guarantees, but urged the government not to ruin the state's economy in doing so. "We do not envy these guarantees. If you want guarantees, double them. But do not push the state into bankruptcy. Development has come to a halt under this government," he said.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka claimed that the state transport department is facing losses and the state government has to pay crores of rupees to the department.

Ashoka said the Congress-led government has emptied the state treasury. "Two of their guarantee schemes have failed. While deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar has hinted at stopping the Shakthi scheme, the government is also trying to restrict BPL cards. When that is the case, we don't know how they are facing polls," he said.

Calling the government as "Tuglaq government", Ashoka said two of the guarantee schemes have been "flops". The government is looking for some reasons to shut these schemes. "We had said that the Congress will stop the guarantee schemes if they come to power and now the government is on this path," he said.

Meanwhile, BJP members will stage a protest on November 4 against Minister Zameer Ahmed on the Waqf issue. "We will take it to the logical end," Ashoka said.

Siddu, DKS capable of solving party issues: Kharge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KHARGE also took the state Congress leaders to task for taking up issues concerning Karnataka with him. "I will not interfere in Karnataka's issues as the state Congress leaders, who are considered as the country's intelligent politicians, are capable of resolving them," he said indirectly referring to the SC (left) community leaders, especially Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa, for raising the issue of classification of SC quota. "If I interfere, it gets highlighted across the country. It will damage me, my party and my people. Hence, I maintain silence. But my friend (Muniyappa) keeps coming to me with certain issues which he can resolve easily with Siddaramaiah. I also receive letters accusing me of being against it (classification of SC quota)," he said. He expressed his helplessness in intervening in issues pertaining to the state as he has been elected as party's national president by leaders of all communities. In Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar and other senior leaders are capable of solving issues related to the party, Kharge said.

WAQF ROW

5 HURT AS MOB ATTACKS HOUSE, 32 HELD

AMIT S UPADHYE @Hubballi

A LOCAL Muslim leader and several others sustained injuries when a mob threw stones at his house in Kadakol village of Savanur taluk, Haveri, on Wednesday night.

A group of residents threw stones at the house of Mohammad Rafi with stones. Five persons, including Rafi, sustained injuries. A two wheeler parked in front of Rafi's house was also torched.

Haveri Deputy Commissioner Vijay Mahantesh and Superintendent of Police Anshu Kumar rushed to the village and brought the situation under control. Senior officials, including the district SP, are camping at the village where the situation is still tense. Police platoons have been deployed at the village. So far, 32 people have been arrested by the police for causing the unrest.

A police platoon stands guard at Kadakol village in Haveri district on Thursday

A police officer said a group of people resorted to violence over fears that their houses were being recorded as Waqf properties in account records. The group threw stones and attacked the houses of Muslim leaders. Rafi has been admitted to KIMS Hospital in Hubballi and others were treated at a local government hospital.

Residents here are concerned that homes may be labelled as Waqf properties in records, which might lead to their eviction.

The villagers said there has been opposition to the updating of accounts of Waqf properties within the village panchayat limits. An order was issued on September 27 by ZP CEO Akshay Sridhar following the direction of Waqf Minister Zameer Ahmad in a meeting on September 3

Meanwhile, Haveri MP Basavaraj Bommai said notices of land records that have been served need to be immediately withdrawn. "The government is trying to create chaos under the guise of Waqf property, and it is directly responsible for the present situation," he said.

CONSPIRACY BY WAQF BOARD TO SEIZE PROPERTY, SAYS JOSHI

Hubballi: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said the state government is playing a "game of hide and seek" in the Waqf land row. Speaking to reporters here on Thursday, Joshi expressed anger over the order given by the Haveri Zilla Panchayat CEO to the Waqf Board to take over two temples. "This has proved again that the Waqf Board has hatched a conspiracy to seize the property of farmers and temples in many districts of the state." He said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah heeded the demand of farmers to withdraw the notice issued for acquisition of land only after they intensified their agitation. The state government officials are also acting in favour of the Wakf Board. "Isn't this a game of hide and seek by the government?" he asked. "The CEO of Haveri ZP has issued an order to the Waqf Board to acquire the Hanuman and Durgavva temples. The Wakf Board members went to take possession of the temple yesterday (Wednesday) and naturally, the locals protested. The police rushed to the spot and registered an FIR against local Hindus. The Waqf Board is going to make Hindus, who have been living there for 60-70 years, homeless under the shadow of the state Congress government," Joshi said. **ENS**

REMOVE WAQF NAME FROM LAND RECORDS OF MUSLIM FARMERS, DEMANDS FORUM

Vijayapura: Criticising the district administration for removing the Waqf name from land records of farmers after the agitation, Karnataka State Mulla Association members have demanded the administration to do the same with their land records where Waqf is mentioned. Addressing media persons here on Thursday, state advisory vice-president of the association M C Mulla said the district administration has removed the Waqf tag from land records of 42 farmers after the protest. "The district administration has done this after the BJP and farmers staged the protest. The district administration said the rectification has been made since the farmers were not issued any notice. In that case, the administration should follow the same principle in removing Waqf name from records of Muslim farmers and we were also not given any notice," he said. Mulla said hundreds of Muslims of the district are fighting a legal battle with the Waqf and the district administration because the department mentioned Waqf in the records without issuing notice or calling for objection. Stating that it is wrong to say that only Hindus have become victims of such problems, Mulla said most of the affected people are Muslims. "But since the BJP plays the Hindu card, it is not talking about the issue of the Muslims facing the same problem as that of Hindu farmers," he said. He said over 1,000 Muslims of the district have been running from pillar to post after the Waqf Board entered the Waqf tag in the land records. **ENS**

Row shows govt's agenda of appeasement: Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Shiggaon

ACCUSING the state government of misusing Waqf laws, Haveri MP and former CM Basavaraj Bommai sought a thorough review of land records to ensure justice for farmers.

Revenue laws are being ignored, which is leading to the wrongful designation of agricultural land across the state as Waqf properties, he told reporters here on Thursday.

Bommai emphasised that revenue records should be regarded as definitive in land matters. He, however, noted that these records are being overlooked in favour of judgements from the Waqf tribunal, which are being treated as final. He highlighted that in previous cases taken to court, justice was served to those affected. Currently, a single application can declare any farmer land as Waqf property, resulting in government notices that instill confusion and fear among farmers, an act he termed the height of governmental irresponsibility.

Bommai criticised deputy commissioners for hastily acting on the gazette notification, questioning their judgement and advocating for a thorough review before any action is taken.

He pointed out conflicts in villages like Kadakol in Savanoor taluk, asserting that the government's actions are undermining the peaceful lives of rural residents. He accused the current administration of pursuing an agenda of appeasement since assuming office, which has disrupted communal harmony.

Although Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced plans to withdraw notices to farmers, Bommai noted that no tangible steps have been taken to implement this promise, calling on the chief minister to take direct action. "How can the land be claimed as Waqf property based solely on a ritual?" he said and cited the example of Krishna Nagar Tanda, where land was declared Waqf property.

Asked if the CM's actions were politically motivated, particularly in light of the ongoing election campaign, Bommai stated that the appeasement strategy has persisted regardless of elections, suggesting that the government is attempting to capitalise on this during the bypolls.

Regarding Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's recent comments on the Shakti scheme, Bommai criticised the guarantees as mere political ploys without proper planning. He raised concern about financial constraints, noting that even their MLAs have expressed grievances. The government now finds itself compelled to reassess these guarantees to safeguard its political standing.

PROBLEM OF PLENTY

State has surplus power as demand dips across country

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru:

WITH robust southwest and northeast monsoons favouring Karnataka, the demand for power has come down, but the generation of hydel power has not. Besides, as demand across the country is low, the energy department has surplus power which it is unable to sell to the grid.

Due to low demand, the energy department has shut down the newly launched Yelahanka Power Plant which generates 370MW. "We have also shut down two units of Udupi Power Corporation Limited (UPCL), two units of Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) and some portions of other units. While we are stressing on hydel resources for power generation, we cannot switch off thermal plants. We have to keep generation constant as we don't know when demand will suddenly rise," said an official from Karnataka Power Corporation Limited.

As per information from the state load dispatch centre, hydro generation is 2672MW of the total generation of 9865MW, on October 30.

"The demand for power is low, and industries and offices are on festive leave. Across India, demand from other states is low too, hence we are unable to sell the power generated. We are generating more than what is required at the moment," the official said.

Explaining trade energy exchange details, the official said that on October 29, the department sold 0.049MU and realised an amount of Rs 0.01 crore, where power was sold at Rs 2.04 per unit. "The current energy market is very poor. Rates vary between Rs 3 and Rs 5 per unit. During peak hour, the rate goes up to Rs 10 per unit, but that is also for 15-30 minutes. But at this time, our demand is also high and good sales cannot be done," the official explained.

As per energy department data, on October 29, the peak load was 229.19 million units (MU), while last year at the same time, it was 271.46MU. The peak load at 11am on October 29 was 11,877MW, while at the same time last year, it was 15,129MW. On October 30, at 11am, the peak load was 11,200MW, and same time last year, it was 17,220MW. "This month, we had anticipated power demand of 14,800MW at least, that's around 206MU, but met only 204MU," the official said.

Govt not delaying internal quota implementation: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said the state government is not delaying implementation of internal reservation for Scheduled Castes and a commission headed by a former high court judge will ensure a fair, scientific and unbiased implementation.

The cabinet has given in-principle approval to implement internal reservation among Scheduled Castes, addressing a longstanding demand for three decades. Karnataka has 101 sub-groups within the Scheduled Castes, and the government is working to bring internal reservation with a scientific approach, ensuring that all these groups are included and considered, the CM stated.

The CM said the committee has been constituted to ensure scientific implementation of internal reservation and it is expected to submit the report within two months. The government has decided to stop new recruitment notifications until further notice, he said.

"By forming the commission, the government is ensuring a fair, scientific and unbiased implementation without any delay tactics. The government is committed to social justice and will work inclusively," the CM stated.

EXPRESS READ

Nikhil breaks down during roadshow

Bengaluru: NDA candidate for the Channapatna bypoll Nikhil Kumaraswamy, grandson of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, on Thursday broke down during a roadshow at Kannamangala village, recalling his defeats -- the 2019 defeat in LS polls from Mandya and the 2023 Assembly polls from Ramanagara. He said the setbacks he faced were not due to a lack of support from the people, but because of Congress' conspiracies against him. **ENS**

The India Meteorological Department is set to launch a special weather forecasting service for Sabarimala, starting this Mandala Pooja season, which is just two weeks away. The initiative mirrors forecasting practices used at major pilgrimage sites like Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath

'Was offered ₹25 cr to vote for UPA-I in 2008 no-trust motion'

Did not fall for the offer as the money was unbelievably high: Former MP Sebastian Paul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

IN a startling revelation, former MP **Sebastian Paul** has said he was offered ₹25 crore to vote in favour of the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government in the no-confidence motion in 2008 after the Left front withdrew support to the government in protest against the Indo-US nuclear deal.

In an authored article published in 'Samakalika Malayalam', a sister publication of TNIE, Paul, who was a Left independent MP in UPA-I from 2004-09, said two persons had come to his residence (No 20, Rajendra Prasad Road) in Delhi, while he was alone. They claimed to be the emissaries of Congress leader Pranab Mukherjee, who had been making all-out efforts behind the scenes to ensure UPA government survived the motion.

"As an independent MP, the party whip or expulsion under the Anti-Defection Act did not apply to me. They approached me to give a 'shock' to the Left front as I was a CPM-backed independent MP. Mukherjee's emissaries talked to me matter-of-factly. They offered me ₹25 crore if I voted in the government's favour," Paul writes in the weekly, which hits the stands on Friday.

He says he did not fall for the offer as the money was unbelievably high, which made him doubt its authenticity. The incident also reminded him of the sting operation by a television channel a few years ago in which 11 MPs were caught taking bribes for asking questions in the Parliament.

"It's always better to be on the vigil against hidden cameras in times such as these," he writes, tongue-in-cheek.

Paul says he realised it was not a sting operation when he met Vayalar Ravi, a Congress MP and then Parliamentary Affairs Minister, at the central hall of Parliament.

"Vayalar Ravi, who knew me from my days as a student at Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, told me that my name had been stuck off the list of MPs identified by Mukherjee who could vote against the motion. There were five independent MPs in the Parliament then.," he writes.

P C Thomas was another independent MP at the time. However, he was not allowed to vote after he was found guilty in an election-related case. The Supreme Court had allowed him to sit in Parliament.

"Such opportunities come only once in a lifetime. Nothing happened to those who took Pranab's bait or fell in his net," writes Paul, adding that handsome offers were made not just for switching sides but also to those who stayed away from voting.

"Thus, the JDU MP from Lakshadweep fell sick after reaching Kochi and was admitted to Amrita Hospital. There were 10 MPs, like P P Koya, who stayed away from voting during the motion," writes Paul.

"When three BJP MPs threw ₹2 crore worth of currency notes on the Lok Sabha table alleging 'notes for votes', I looked at the size of the bundles. The Privileges Committee suspended all three of them. I was a member of the committee," Paul writes. He says since the money would be confiscated, the BJP enacted the "drama" to destroy the UPA government's credibility by bringing ₹2 crore.

Tributes pour in for BPL founder TPG Nambiar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE founder of the Indian electronics brand BPL Group, **TP Gopalan Nambiar**, passed away on Thursday. He was 94. Nambiar, affectionately known as TPG, had been unwell for some time and passed away at his residence in Bengaluru, around 10.15 am.

Former Union minister and Nambiar's son-in-law, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, confirmed the news on social media, stating, "He was a true visionary who built one of India's most trusted consumer brands, which remains popular today. #BelieveInTheBest." He also announced that he is pausing his election campaign work to return to Bengaluru to be with his family.

BPL was a significant force in the consumer electronics industry, involved in various sectors, including batteries, telephone equipment, packaging, electronic devices, and medical equipment. With its diverse portfolio, the group made a notable impact across multiple markets. As liberalisation took effect and multinational TV companies entered India, BPL was regarded as having strong potential for success. The company invested heavily in brand promotion and, at one point, captured over 15 per cent of the television market.

After Nambiar's passing, tributes poured in from politicians and industrialists alike. Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted, "TPG Nambiar was a pioneering innovator and industrialist who strongly advocated for making India economically strong. I am pained by his passing. My condolences to his family and admirers."

Founder of Biocon Limited Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw posted, "TP Gopalan Nambiar, founder of the BPL Group, has passed away at the age of 94, leaving behind a legacy mourned by political leaders and family. He was a great visionary and a forerunner in our telecom technology industry."

Former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa expressed his sorrow at the passing of Nambiar, founder of the iconic BPL brand, whom he described as a long-time close acquaintance. He noted that Nambiar's significant contributions and legacy will always be remembered.

Karnataka Minister for Commerce and Industries MB Patil expressed his deep sadness at the passing of Nambiar. He noted that Nambiar's pioneering contributions to India's electronics industry have left a lasting impact.

SHINING BRIGHT

Chittoor Sri Krishna Temple stands bathed in the golden glow of the Lakshadeepam on the occasion of Deepavali on Thursday | A SANESH

Firecracker-laden 2-wheeler explodes in AP, rider dead

Eluru: A man died after the firecrackers he was carrying on a two-wheeler exploded in Eluru town on Thursday, the police said. The incident occurred when two persons were transporting a bag of firecrackers bought for Diwali celebrations. The bag containing "onion bombs" and other crackers exploded after falling on the road, resulting in the death of the rider on the spot, a senior police official based. The pillion rider and two others standing on the roadside suffered injuries and were admitted to a hospital.

All those who work at Tirumala should be Hindus: TTD chairman

PTI @ HYDERABAD

THE newly-appointed chairman of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Board B R Naidu on Thursday said all those who work at Tirumala, the abode of Lord Venkateswara, should be Hindus.

Speaking to reporters here, he said he would speak to the Andhra Pradesh government on how to deal with staff members belonging to other religions, whether they should be sent to other government departments or given VRS (Voluntary Retirement Scheme). "Everyone who works at Tirumala should be Hindu. That would be my first effort. There are many issues in this. We have to look into that," he said.

Naidu, an ardent devotee of Lord Venkateswara, said he considers being appointed as chairman of the TTD Board as a privilege. He thanked Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and other leaders of the state's NDA government for giving him the responsibility of heading the Board.

B R Naidu, who alleged that many irregularities took place at Tirumala during the previous YSR Congress regime, said the sanctity of the temple should be safeguarded. He also said he would work with honesty and transparency in discharging his duties. B R Naidu is a media personality who runs Telugu TV channels, including a Hindu devotional channel.

The government appointed B R Naidu as chairman of the newly constituted TTD board.

Keralappiravi: Kerala Gov, CM call for unity, inclusivity

PTI @ Thiruvananthapuram

GOVERNOR **Arif Mohammed Khan**, Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** and Assembly Speaker A N Shamseer on Thursday extended warm wishes to the people of the state and Keralites worldwide on the eve of the state's 68th formation day, known as 'Keralappiravi'.

While the Governor called for expanding the use of Malayalam and upholding the ideals of inclusivity and social justice, Vijayan and Shamseer urged Keralites everywhere to be united and work together for the betterment of the state.

"My best wishes to Keralites the world over on Keralappiravi. Kerala's strides in human development, since its formation, are a testament to the values of inclusivity and social justice, deeply rooted in our social fabric and strengthened by social reform initiatives, educational advancements etc."

"As we celebrate Keralappiravi, let us renew our commitment to expand the use of our mother tongue, Malayalam, uphold the ideals of inclusivity and social justice and work towards a sustainable and equitable future for all," he said.

Vijayan, in his message on the occasion, referred to the central government's alleged anti-Kerala policies and accused the opposition of being a silent spectator to it.

He said that despite the problems created by the Centre and the opposition, the LDF government in the state moved forward tirelessly and achieved a lot.

However, a lot more needs to be achieved, including accelerating the commercial sector, improving agriculture, generating jobs at the local level and making waste management efficient, the CM said.

He said the development of the state was progressing with leaps and bounds and urged everyone to work together so that it continues to do so. Shamseer, in his message, said communalism, extremism and casteist thoughts have no place in Kerala due to the unity among its people.

He also said Kerala was able to overcome various natural calamities and disasters due to this unity and urged Keralites everywhere to move forward together.

Kin of 98 Marukumbi convicts to move K'taka HC

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Koppal

DAYS after a court in Gangavati taluk of Koppal district sentenced 98 people to life imprisonment in connection with the violence at Marukumbi village in 2014, the family members of the convicts have decided to challenge the verdict in the High Court of Karnataka.

"With many of our breadwinners back in jail, it will be difficult for us to lead a normal life," they said.

The court sentenced 98 people to life imprisonment after finding them guilty of setting ablaze the huts of many Dalits at Marukumbi.

After a clash over denial of entry to Dalits into hotels and salons in the village, the accused set their huts ablaze.

Ninety-eight convicts belong to 200 families living at Marukumbi. Their family members now feel that they have to face a tough time without their breadwinners. It would be difficult for them to even send their children to school. Hence, they have decided to move the high court. Some families have already met lawyers, according to sources.

Meanwhile, some villagers expressed fears that Marukumbi may see violence again as family members of the convicts are unhappy with the court order.

Marukumbi village in Koppal district

The court order has also impacted some villages near Marukumbi. Many have started shutting down their salons and hotels. However, a police team recently visited Marukumbi and nearby villages and convinced the owners to reopen their salons and hotels.

Many family members of the convicts broke down when they were being taken to the Ballari jail after the court announced its verdict. A few elders from Marukumbi said, "There are no issues between Dalits and other communities in the village now. We all are living in peace and harmony now."

The huts were burnt in 2014 after some Dalits, who had gone to watch a film in a local theatre, fought with a group of people from other communities there. Later, clashes broke out when some Dalits were not allowed to enter salons and hotels in the village. Many Dalit leaders took out a padayatra from Koppal to Bengaluru seeking action against those responsible for clashes in the village.

CATHOLICOS MOR BASELIOS THOMAS I PASSES AWAY

ANU KURUVILLA @ Kochi

HIS Beatitude Catholicos Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I (95), who was the architect of the resurrection of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Church which had been struggling from the onslaught of cases and loss of its churches, passed away on Thursday. He was suffering from age-related illness and was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in the city for the past six months. In his death, the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church has lost a general who was called an army in himself.

Born as the sixth son of Mathai of the Cheruvillil family of Vadayambadi at Puthencruz and Kolencherry Kallunkal Kunjamma on July 22, 1929, Mor Thomas I was christened C M Thomas. Life was not a bed of roses for him. His was an aristocratic family. But, by the time he was born, they had fallen on hard days. Frequent bouts of illness during his childhood affected his education. It is said that worried about her sickly child, his mother, who was a devout Christian, used to take him to Malercruz Dayara where the relics of St Kuriakose, Patriarch St Ignatius Elias III and St Gregorios (Parumala Thirumeni) were interned.

His spiritual education flourished under the guidance of Njarthunkal Koruthu Malpan, Moosa Saloma Ramban (Mor Chrysostomos) and Kadavil Paul Ramban (Paulose Mar Athanasius). In August 1958, deacon Thomas was ordained 'Kassisso' (full priest) by Mor Yulius Elias (Patriarchal Delegate to Malankara) at the Majanikkara Dayara. He was never a person to sit on the sidelines.

On July 26, 2002, Moran Mor Ignatius Zakka - I Iwas, the Patriarch of Antioch & all the East, consecrated the 73-year-old Mor Dionysius Thomas as the Catholicos with the title Baselios Thomas I at the St Peter's and St Paul's Cathedral at Mor Ephrem Monastery in Ma'arat Sayyidnaya, near Damascus. In the Syrian Orthodox Church hierarchy, the Catholicos is second in rank to the supreme spiritual head, the Patriarch of Antioch.

He ordained a total of 350 priests in Malankara. He has been named as an accused in around 560 cases.

RSS event at govt school in M'luru stokes controversy

Screengrab of the video of the event on the school premises

Mangaluru: The Department of Education has sought a report from officials after a video of a programme allegedly organised by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on the government school premises at Surathkal near Mangaluru is being circulated on social media. Visuals of the activity by the RSS on the premises of Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat Higher Primary School at Kuthethur in Mangalapete have gone viral on social media. The school authorities stated that they had not issued permission to organise the programme. The school headmistress, Nalinakshi said that they came to know about the event only last Monday. "The programme was held on October 27 and we found the stage set up for their event. We enquired with one of the programme organisers and they told us that they had not sought any permission for the same. We asked them to give in writing that no such programmes would be held on the school premises in the future but they refused to do so. We have informed the higher authorities and the local gram panchayat already for action," she said. James Cutinha, Block Education Officer (BEO), Mangaluru North, told The New Indian Express that the state government has mandated that no public events must be conducted and the government school premises can be utilised only for government-sanctioned programmes.

VVIP passes cancelled after chaos at Hasanamba temple

B R UDAYA KUMAR @Hassan

THE district administration has suspended all types of passes issued to the public for the special entry to Goddess Hasanamba temple following chaos on Thursday.

A large number of people holding VVIP passes gathered in front of the temple and tried to storm into the sanctum sanctorum of the 12-century shrine. The police team led by three SPs and six DySPs along with revenue officials failed to manage the huge crowd rushing towards the temple.

A source said the district administration has given away 2.5 lakh VVIP passes which were distributed in neighbouring districts by political leaders. People, especially women, thronged the temple from different taluks of Tumakuru, Ramanagara and Bengaluru Rural districts and stood in a long queue holding VVIP passes.

A large number of devotees jostle to get into the Hasanamba temple in Hassan on Thursday evening | EXPRESS

Ironically, more number of devotees were found in the VVIP queues than in the general ones. The devotees who purchased ₹1,000 special entry tickets were forced to stand in long queues. They had to wait for three hours in the queues.

Meanwhile, the devotees standing in common queues took five to seven hours for having darshan. Many even returned to their natives unable to bear the situation.

The KSRTC Hassan division also cancelled the local trip between KSRTC bus stand to Hasanamba temple following the direction by the temple administrator.

EXPRESS READ

Truck driver dies in road mishap near Byndoor

UDUPI: The A truck driver died on Tuesday after the vehicle he was driving overturned in Ottinene near Byndoor. The deceased has been identified as Damodar. The truck was speeding and driven recklessly, causing the driver to lose control over the vehicle. The truck, coming from Bhatkal towards Byndoor, overturned and fell into a ditch. As a result, the driver was trapped under the truck. Later, the public joined the operation and a crane and an earth mover were arranged to lift the truck and pull the driver out, but he was unresponsive by that time. He was rushed to the Community Health Centre, where doctors examined and declared him dead. Byndoor police registered a case.

Naveen Patnaik's security downgraded from Z to Y category

BHUBANESWAR : The Odisha government has downgraded the security of the state's five-time former chief minister Naveen Patnaik, who is also the leader of opposition, from Z to Y category, an official said on Thursday. Patnaik would now be assigned only two constables in Havildar rank, the official said. After this year's general elections, when Patnaik lost power after 24 years.

One wheel of express train derails in Madurai, none injured

MADURAI : One wheel of a Bodinayakkanur-bound express train derailed here on Thursday but nobody was injured in the incident, the Southern Railway said. The incident happened on Thursday morning and the train reached its destination late by 89 minutes. Bodinayakkanur in Theni district is located about 550 km from state capital Chennai.

EDITORIAL

"War against a foreign country only happens when the moneyed classes think they are going to profit from it" — George Orwell

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

KANNUR POLITICIANS MUST END THE ERA OF ARROGANT POSTURING

IT'S said that the care of human life and happiness is the first objective of good governance. But P P Divya, former president of Kannur panchayat, seemed to have forgotten the tenet when she publicly criticised Additional District Magistrate Naveen Babu at his farewell function, suggesting that he was corrupt. Babu was found hanging at his official residence the next day. Two days later, the police registered a case of abetting suicide against Divya, an emerging woman leader in CPI(M). Then, hours after a principal sessions court rejected her anticipatory bail application, Divya surrendered before the police.

The court tore into Divya's arguments. It observed she had intended "to humiliate and insult the deceased in the presence of his superior and subordinates". It pointed out that Divya had attended the function uninvited, invited media people, and got her speech circulated even in Pathanamthitta, Babu's home town. It observed that if she had any information about corruption, she should have approached the vigilance department or police—which she did not.

The ruling party's district leadership in Kannur had initially tried to defend Divya, saying what she mentioned at the send-off was "well-intentioned". But after she was denied bail, the party directed her to surrender. Importantly, the CPI(M) district leadership in Pathanamthitta always stood with Babu's family and distanced themselves from the party's approach in Kannur. Even the general sentiment within the CPI(M) was against the "Kannur party", which has always had an upper hand in the intra-party power structure.

Divya has said she will prove her innocence. She may eventually be able to do it, but the problem would not end there. In fact, Divya is not the problem—she is a symptom of a deep malaise that is especially visible in the party's Kannur brand of politics, smacking of high-handedness and grandstanding. Even while accepting that Kannur's politics has its own distinct history, and has always been bloody and rebellious, there is a time and place for everything. It's high time the politicians from Kannur, especially those in the CPI(M), accept that violence—physical and emotional—is totally unacceptable in a democratic society. It's time to move on, Kannur comrades; otherwise, you might find your space shrinking in the modern political milieu.

BENGALURU DEMOLITION DRIVE MUST BE IMPARTIAL

IN a belated move, the Karnataka government has cracked the whip on Bengaluru's apathetic civic officials after an unauthorised, six-storeyed building collapsed like a pack of cards last week, killing nine labourers. The building, coming up in a middle-class eastern suburb, was constructed without valid permissions and had been issued three notices and a demolition order. But Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) engineers failed to stop the work, leading to the tragedy. The sub-divisional engineer has now been suspended. Under fire from citizens over the utter lack of enforcement and accountability, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar have ordered a survey of all under-construction buildings to check for illegalities and demolish unauthorised ones. By law, the sanctioned plan is to be publicly displayed; but this happens in the breach and engineers claim innocence.

While the Palike did bring down a couple of tilting monstrosities last week, it would not be wrong to say that it is embarking on an unfamiliar project. Demolition is almost always the last resort. For BBMP engineers, every building violation is an opportunity to get rich—and their greed is matched by the builders'. Errant owners get a stay order from court and officials come up with a 'compromise formula' involving hefty bribes. This is despite blatant violations in the form of unsanctioned floors, failure to provide parking space, and contravention of setback and zonal norms. Even a cursory check of any Bengaluru street would find several structures that are fit for demolition. Though the government claims it has empowered civic agencies like the BBMP, Bangalore Development Authority and Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force after their powers were revoked by the previous government in 2020-21, it is moot whether the Palike will demolish any property.

Year after year, the BBMP has been restrained by judicial stays when it attempts to demolish encroachments on wetlands and storm water drains constructed by affluent owners. When the enforcer of laws is helpless, residents can expect little change in the city's landscape. If demolition is the answer, there cannot be different laws for different sections of society—every illegal building will have to be razed. It remains to be seen if engineers tasked with the survey and joint commissioners armed with drone surveillance will play by the rulebook.

QUICK TAKE

SHINING LIGHT ON HISTORY

USING LiDAR, or light detection and ranging technology, researchers have recently rediscovered an ancient Maya city from under a thick forest canopy in southern Mexico. Archaeologists have successfully used the remote-sensing technology for six years to find thousands of Maya sites in adjoining Guatemala. The Archaeological Survey of India announced last year it would do a LiDAR survey of Humayun's fort, Dinpanah, in Delhi. Though the ASI is perennially short of funds and expertise in its substantial task of finding, conserving and guarding sites in this long-inhabited land of ours, nothing stops it from using modern technology to make the job more efficient at more sites.

The N-threat is growing, thanks to the Iran-Israel conflict and collapsing arms control framework. India can lead the Global South to usher in a new strategically stable era

INDIA'S ROLE IN THE THIRD NUCLEAR AGE

MANISH TEWARI
Lawyer, third-term MP, former Information & Broadcasting Minister

AS the Iran-Israel conflict escalates, there is growing tension on the stability of what strategic thinkers characterise as the 'third nuclear age'. Unlike previous periods dominated by US-Soviet dynamics, this era presents distinct challenges, including the rise of cyber threats to nuclear control systems, the proliferation of nuclear capabilities among regional powers, and the erosion of traditional arms control frameworks.

Understanding this evolving landscape is crucial for maintaining strategic stability, particularly in volatile regions like West and North Asia.

The three nuclear ages

During the first nuclear age, the doctrine of mutually assured destruction essentially underpinned the architecture of deterrence. The US and Soviet Union, though rivals, maintained a fragile peace through arms control agreements that ensured any nuclear conflict would lead to catastrophic consequences for both. Other nuclear powers UK and France walked in lockstep with the US, and China adhered to a no-first use policy.

The second nuclear age dawned in 1998, when India and Pakistan crashed the theological basis of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Pakistan's first-use policy coupled with its intrinsic domestic instability injected a dynamic of unpredictability in the global nuclear order.

However, in the third nuclear age, the proliferation of nuclear technology to regional actors like North Korea and Iran, coupled with the covertly-overt nuclear status of Israel and the erosion of longstanding arms control agreements, have introduced new variables.

The current arms control framework is collapsing. Russia's suspension of compliance with the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the last key arms control pact between the US and Russia, marks a disturbing development. Once it expires in January 2026, the world could face its first period since the early 1970s without major arms control agreement among the two leading powers. Traditional safeguards may no longer be sufficient to prevent a nuclear escalation.

At the core of this instability are Israel, a *de facto* nuclear power, and Iran, a country whose nuclear ambitions are a screw-turn away from reality. Their ongoing rivalry, driven by Tehran's nuclear pursuits and Israel's perception of a nuclear Iran as an existential threat, has the potential to escalate into a nuclear conflict. The consequences of such a clash would be devastating, not only for the broader West Asia, but also for global security.

SOURAV ROY

India's strategic interests

India has crucial stakes in maintaining stability in West Asia. As one of the largest importers of oil from here, any disruption in supplies would have serious repercussions.

Additionally, millions of Indian expats work in Gulf countries, significantly boosting India's foreign exchange reserves through remittances. A conflict in the region could trigger an economic shock and create a humanitarian crisis.

On a larger scale, India has consistently advocated for universal and comprehensive global nuclear disarmament while recognising the importance of deterrence for its own security. This balanced stance underscores India's role as a responsible nuclear power.

With tensions between Iran and Israel escalating, India's position as a key player in the Global South and a proponent of a rules-based international order becomes vital.

India's strategic autonomy, which allows it to maintain balanced ties with both Iran and Israel, offers a unique opportunity to mobilise the Global South to play a role to secure a *modus vivendi* between the two countries, given the Global North is firmly behind Israel and has been historically antagonistic towards Iran, notwithstanding some lip service once in a while by France.

While Israel remains a key defence partner, Iran plays a crucial role in India's outreach to Central Asia, particularly through the Chabahar port project.

India's non-alignment policy and longstanding support for peaceful conflict resolution provide a potential framework for diplomatic efforts. Multilateral platforms like the UN, where India has consistently promoted dialogue, could be instrumental. Regionally, forums such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which includes Iran, may offer a more focused space for dialogue.

By leveraging its influence, India could lead initiatives encouraging both Iran and Israel to reduce tensions, particularly by encouraging the revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which sought to limit Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Though the JCPOA has faced setbacks, notably the US's withdrawal in 2018 and subsequent violations by Iran, it still remains a step for tempering Iran's ambitions. A renewed global effort to revive the agreement, potentially with stronger verification measures and economic incentives, could help prevent an unstable dynamic playing itself out.

Furthermore, cyber warfare has emerged as a key concern in the third nuclear age, with countries developing advanced capabilities. The risk of cyberattacks on nuclear command systems threatens to undermine deterrence or trigger accidental launches.

The current arms control pacts do not fully address these new vulnerabilities. The international community must act swiftly to establish norms preventing cyberattacks on nuclear infrastructure.

A new approach

Iran has significantly expanded its stockpile of enriched uranium to near weapons-grade defying international demands. According to a recent International Atomic Energy Agency report, as of August 17, Iran possessed 164.7 kg of uranium enriched up to 60 percent, marking a 22.6-kg increase since May 2024. It is only a short technical step away from the 90 percent enrichment required for weapons-grade material.

Within Iran, debates about its regional posture and nuclear ambitions highlight the crossroads at which Tehran stands. The weakening of its forward defence strategy—the use of proxies—may push hardliners towards more drastic actions. While this does not signal an immediate move towards nuclear weapons, it suggests Iran is exploring other ways to establish credible deterrence.

The ongoing cycle of asymmetrical conflict between Iran and Israel exposes Tehran's military limitations and could drive it to pursue more unpredictable measures in search for reliable deterrence.

India can contribute to strategic stability by advocating for global nuclear dialogue for making nuclear non-proliferation architecture more concurrent, promoting cybersecurity norms, and encouraging regional dialogues where there are nuclear flashpoints.

(Views are personal)

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HOW VEGANISM AFFECTS BUSINESS CHOICES TOO

BINDU SIVASANKARAN NAIR
Environmental, social and governance consultant; Founder, Beyond Pink

WHILE celebrating the 50th year of the Vegan Society in 1994, Louise Wallis, the then president and chair of the organisation, institutionalised this day as the World Vegan Day.

Veganism as a lifestyle has seen a substantial surge in recent years. According to a 2024 estimate, there are approximately 88 million vegans in the world. The largest vegan population resides in India (11 percent of the world), followed by the US and China (4 percent each). Gen Z and millennials constitute a sizable share of vegans (around 27 percent each) followed by Gen X (23 percent).

Year on year increase in the enrollment for 'Veganuary', a popular campaign calling for vegan practices in January is an indication of growing popularity of veganism. Around 7,00,000 people from 228 countries took to this 31-day challenge in 2023. As young people are increasingly looking for products that are cruelty free, plant-based and sustainable, there is a considerable swell of clean label and plant-based choices in the market.

Generational impact

Veganism and vegetarianism are not new as the practices can be traced back to ancient Indian and Greek cultures. Many religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism advocate these practices to encourage healthy, harmonious and non-exploitative lifestyles.

The best way to assess the rise of veganism is to look at consumer market data. The US vegan retail alternative food sales saw a jump from $3.9 billion to $8.1 billion between 2017 and 2023. The same worldwide from 2019 to 2023 grew from about $21.6 billion to $29 billion.

Experts opine that more Gen Z may adopt a vegan lifestyle in future. The digital native and climate anxious Gen Z is in the process of shaping the world with their values. This generation has its identity influenced by Covid-19, a shift in financial paradigm, digitisation and factors such as climate change. Gen Z consumes considerable online content, which influences their decision-making.

Gen Z are bombarded with information on the alarming rate of climate change and destruction of sustainable ecological patterns. A Stanford University study done in 10 countries, covering teenagers and young adults and published in The Lancet, gives substantial evidence on climate change and the deep-felt psychological impact it has on young people. Young activists like Greta Thunberg have quit school to prioritise climate advocacy and the support they receive is an example of how Gen Z is prioritising climate change.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> On World Vegan Day, it's time to take stock of the lifestyle choice's impact beyond animal welfare and better health, which still remain the major pillars of the movement. Thanks to younger generations embracing the choice in larger numbers today, there is also a business case to be made

According to data, around 80 percent of the world's agricultural land is used for farming related to conventional diet, leading to increased deforestation, emission of greenhouse gases and a loss of biodiversity. Besides, there are other challenges such as air and water pollution coming from farm-based animal and poultry rearing. Animal suffering is also a no-go with this generation, leading them to opt for plant-based alternatives.

Influence of investors

While regulations around sustainability had been governing companies for a considerable period of time, the current environmental, social and governance (ESG) imperative is substantially influencing the investment landscape. The 2016 Paris agreement to keep global warming well below two degrees has profound influence on nations. This mandate triggered the momentum for investors to consider ESG commitments by corporates when investment decisions are made. Be it 'profits and purpose' or 'purpose over profits', investors certainly are getting noticeably interested in ESG-based investment.

Today the corporate world has substantial pressure from investors, shareholders, consumers, advocacy groups and communities to be sustainable, compelling them to follow practices good for the environment but expanding to the social aspects of inclusion and ethical governing practices. The ripple of this is visible in India, with some legacy brands introducing sustainable and healthier alternatives, while others are inorganically building healthier arms. Presently, India is witnessing a vegan startup boom fueled by market demand.

There are diet risks often cited against vegan lifestyle such as vitamin B12 deficiency. Similarly, protein availability in vegan food is also questioned. Vegans advocate to mitigate these risks with mindful meal and supplement planning.

Animal welfare and better health are still the major pillars of vegan values. However, the best argument for veganism is sustainability. There are heightened chances for more deforestation, pollution and drought in future if conventional diet is continued. Further, livestock emissions account for considerable methane emission, which adds 80 times more power to global warming than carbon dioxide.

There's unanimity in the assumption that if the world goes vegan, it can reduce greenhouse gas emissions profoundly. However, its implications are not fully comprehended. For example, the effect of single source food dependency in a 'crop disease pandemic' situation. Further, the effect of this hypothesis on ecology is unclear. Future research may elucidate how to mitigate these risks, fueling more vegan lifestyle endorsements.

(Views are personal)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Abetment limit

The suicide of a reportedly straightforward civil servant in Kerala has assumed sensational dimensions. The suicide is widely believed to have been committed upon abetment. Abetment to suicide is a criminal offence, but the layman has to know the extent that would lead the victim to kill himself in desperation.
Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

Anticipated census

The delayed census exercise is set to start early next year. This time, the otherwise routine affair has raised public interest as it's going to be the basis for the next delimitation process. The implications are massive.
D V G Sankara Rao, Vizianagaram

Selfie safety

Taking photos in dangerous spots has become a fashion these days without realising its consequences, like the story of the girl who slid down a 15-foot gorge in Mandaragiri Hills while trying to take a selfie. While nobody objects to taking selfies, it is prudent to select safe places.
H P Murali, Bengaluru

Gaza healthcare

The ongoing conflict in Gaza has escalated into a humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by the rapid spread of diseases due to inadequate healthcare infrastructure, contaminated water, and crowded living conditions. With hospitals overwhelmed and access to medical supplies limited, preventable diseases like cholera are rampant. The international community must prioritise immediate humanitarian aid to address this dire situation.
Fida Fathima, Kannur

Hypocritical opposition

The opposition has been alleging an indiscriminate use of central agencies like the CBI and ED against their leaders. If this is indeed true, it is pertinent to know whether the police forces in opposition-ruled states are enjoying functional freedom and independence. The undeniable fact is that every dispensation wants the investigating and law enforcing agencies to function according to its writ and brief.
C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

Embracing Spain

The recent meeting between Narendra Modi and Spain's PM Pedro Sanchez marks a pivotal moment in international relations. Their focus on expanding future horizons through strategic partnerships and economic integration can significantly enhance bilateral trade. This collaboration can serve as a model for others, showcasing the power of unity in addressing global challenges.
Nilaa I G, Bengaluru

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Narendra Modi @narendramodi
Shri TP G Nambiar Ji was a pioneering innovator and industrialist, who was a strong votary of making India economically strong. Pained by his passing away.

Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
Yesterday on the Wayanad campaign trail... Some hundred people attended as I told them about the benefits of choosing @priyankagandhi as their representative

N Biren Singh @NBirenSingh
It is a privilege to celebrate these significant milestones that honour the legacy of our great leaders

■ Maha DCM says Mahayuti has resolved all issues concerning rebels ■ NCP (SP) chief alleges those who were given responsibilities took advantage of it

Rahul's 'guarantee card' failed in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, won't work in Maha: Fadnavis

PTI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday pooh-poohed the Congress' plan to come out with a 'guarantee card' ahead of the state Assembly elections, and said the ploy failed in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi would be releasing a 'guarantee card' containing the party's election promises, state Congress leaders have said.

"Rahul's guarantee card did not help the Congress retain power in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh," Fadnavis told reporters here.

"He should also explain why the guarantee card is not being implemented in Telangana and Himachal Pradesh, as promised. It will fail here too," the BJP leader added.

On the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP 'Mahayuti' alliance's strategy for dealing with rebels who have filed nominations against official candidates, Fadnavis said alliance leaders including NCP chief Ajit Pawar had a meeting at Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's residence on the issue.

"We have resolved all the issues, and you will see many rebels withdrawing their nominations by November 4," the BJP leader said, adding that they will hold discussions with the rebels and deal with their grievances.

November 4 is the last date of withdrawal, while the elections will be held on November 20.

"Nominations submitted by the 'Mahayuti' candidates have cleared the scrutiny phase. We will start our campaign with full vigour from November 5," Fadnavis said.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and BJP Mumbai president Ashish Shelar share sweets during a press conference in Mumbai on Thursday | PTI

Asked about city BJP leader and former MP Gopal Shetty, who is contesting as an independent from Borivali Assembly constituency, Fadnavis said Shetty is a loyal and honest party worker who is "assertive" at times. "We are trying to persuade him (to withdraw)," he added.

As to whether he would be willing to induct controversial NCP leader Nawab Malik in the next government if the Mahayuti retained power, Fadnavis said, "Our party is not even going to campaign for Malik, so there is no question of inducting him as a minister. Our party is going to campaign for the Shiv Sena candidate who is contesting against Malik." Malik is the official candidate of the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party from Mankhurd-Shivajinagar in Mumbai which could witness a friendly fight between two allies.

Breaking one's party for power not good, says Sharad Pawar

PTI @ Pune

NCP (SP) chief **Sharad Pawar** on Thursday accused Nationalist Congress Party leaders, including minister Dilip Walse Patil, of breaking the NCP for the sake of power, calling the move not appropriate.

Pawar was addressing party workers and supporters of Devdatta Nikam, fielded by NCP (SP) in Ambegaon against sitting MLA Walse Patil, who has represented the constituency in the Pune district multiple times. Nikam visited Pawar in Baramati on Thursday. The latter said the NCP fought unitedly in the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly polls and won 54 seats. "We formed the (MVA) government and in that government, gave representation to two of our colleagues from the district. One was from Ambegaon and the other was from Baramati (referring to Walse Patil and Ajit Pawar, respectively)," he said.

The NCP founder said they also gave more representation to the Indapur tehsil in Pune district as their representative (Dattatray Bharne) was given a ministerial berth. It was the party that gave powers to these leaders and the party's success was due to the hard of NCP workers, he said.

"The party came to power due to that success, because of which they became ministers. But some of our colleagues did not remember this. Some of our colleagues took away 44 of the 54 MLAs and joined the other side and created a wrong picture in the state," said Pawar. He was referring to the bitter split in NCP in 2023 after Ajit and MLAs loyal to him sided with the BJP and Shiv Sena to become part of the ruling Mahayuti alliance. Ajit subsequently got the party name and its clock symbol from the Election Commission.

"They got the power they desired. It is not that they had not got the power earlier, but the move to break the party to obtain power was not appropriate," he said.

Slamming MLA Walse Patil, Pawar said that the representative of Ambegaon tehsil was also a part of that decision to go after power by breaking the party. The octogenarian politician said since he was occupied with work at the national level, he had given major responsibilities to some of the state leaders whom he trusted, but they took advantage of it.

VBA CHIEF PRAKASH AMBEDKAR HOSPITALISED AFTER CHEST PAIN

PUNE: Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) president **Prakash Ambedkar** was admitted to a hospital in Pune on Thursday, after he complained of chest pain, his party said, requesting that the privacy of the Dalit leader's family be respected. "Balasaheb (Prakash) Ambedkar was admitted to a hospital in Pune in the early hours of Thursday, October 31, for chest pain. He is being treated in the ICU for a blood clot in his heart. His condition is stable and he will undergo angiography in the next hour," said VBA on X. The party said Ambedkar is expected to be under observation for the next 3-5 days. "VBA state president Rekha Tai Thakur, with the support of the party's election coordination committee, manifesto committee and media and research department, will be leading the (assembly election) campaign of VBA for the next few days," the post said. The family of 70-year-old Prakash Ambedkar, the grandson of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, won't take questions at this time, the party said.

Confiscated cannabis converted into biomass for power in C'garh

EJAZ KAISER @Raipur

IT'S often seen that investigating agencies set seized marijuana (cannabis) ablaze in the open to destroy it. It is a part of the agencies' operations and procedure.

However, in the Chhattisgarh capital, Raipur, the police have found a novel way to turn massive amounts of confiscated cannabis (locally cited as 'ganja'), worth several crores of rupees, into productive use, in an eco-friendly way.

Several tons of marijuana confiscated in thousands of cases, under the NDPS Act in recent months, across various districts of the Raipur Division, were eliminated by being burned in a power plant boiler, in accordance with the given legal provisions.

The Raipur Division includes the districts of Mahasamund, Baloda Bazar, Gariyaband, Dhamtari and the capital Raipur. Besides cannabis, other seized narcotic substances and drugs were also destroyed. The finishing-off action was carried out in the presence of the high-powered drug disposal committee constituted by the police headquarters, under the guidance of Raipur Range Inspector General Amresh Mishra, and paved the way to facilitate 'freedom from drug abuse' in society. The destruction process, for which the approval from the environment department was also taken, was carried out amid the presence of the Raipur IG, SSP and other officials at the Siltara-based private power plant close to the state capital.

"The environment-friendly and productive practice of disposing of confiscated cannabis and other narcotic substances will continue", said Mishra.

The seized cannabis were collected at the plant, where after segregation, the narcotic materials were kneaded into a boiler through bucket elevators for direct combustion of biomass.

With the marijuana being produced from the cannabis herbaceous flowering plant, experts cited it as 'good byproduct biomass' to generate electricity. The open burning of cannabis poses serious threats to air quality.

"Usually for generating 10 MW of power, around 20 tons of biomass is required. The boiler in the plant produces high-pressure steam which, through the turbine blades, drives a generator to produce electricity," said officials of the power plant.

The initiative can be replicated to achieve a similar result in other areas too.

India's strength intertwined with Sanatan Dharma, says Adityanath

PTI @ Lucknow

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said India's strength is intertwined with Sanatan Dharma and emphasised on unity beyond caste, belief, language or religion.

He visited the new Ram Mandir and Hanuman Garhi temple in Ayodhya to offer prayers on Diwali and extended his greetings to the people of the state on the auspicious occasion.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister's Office said, "The chief minister said that this year's Diwali festival is historic and unprecedented. Ram Lalla has been seated in his abode after a long wait of 500 years. Innumerable lamps will also be lit in the new temple built in the birthplace of Ram Lalla in Ayodhyadham."

"The state government is reestablishing the ancient and glorious tradition of celebrating Diwali in Ayodhya by organising 'Deepotsav' and is working to introduce the entire world community to the glory of Ayodhya," it added.

In a statement, the chief minister said that with the blessings of the RSS leadership and revered seers, Ram Lalla is now enshrined in the magnificent Ram temple. He added that the government has fulfilled the wishes of Ayodhya's citizens and seers, and everyone now must uphold this legacy. "This is not the time for complacency," Adityanath said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath meets saints and religious leaders during his visit to Ayodhya on Thursday | PTI

"We must stand united, beyond caste, belief, language, or religion; division will only weaken us," he added.

The chief minister said Bajrangbali's mace will protect Sanatan Dharma and that any threats to India's ethos will be firmly dealt with.

"India's strength is intertwined with Sanatan Dharma. Our true identity lies in our commitment to service, not in mere words," he said.

Adityanath also visited Ayodhya's Mirapur Bulandi Dalit Basti, where he distributed sweets and clothes among women and handed chocolates to children.

He recalled that Ayodhya was illuminated with diyas upon Lord Ram's return from his 14-year exile in the 'Treta Yuga'.

Adityanath emphasised that the festival imparts the message of spreading the light of knowledge, faith and education through each illuminated lamp. He also expressed hope that the festival would bring joy, enthusiasm and prosperity to the state's people and all followers of Sanatan Dharma.

Nitish aide RCP Singh floats own party, to contest Bihar Assembly election

PTI @ Patna

FORMER Union minister **RCP Singh**, who had to quit his cabinet berth after falling out of favour with JDU supremo and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, on Thursday floated a new party 'Aap Saabki Aawaz'. Singh told reporters he chose the day for the launch as besides Diwali, it was also the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Incidentally, Patel is seen as a cultural icon by the powerful OBC community Kurmi, to which both Kumar and Singh belong, and the latter profusely thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for celebrating the birth anniversary on a grand scale.

Singh, the bureaucrat-turned-politician, did not speak on his relations with the JDU, which he had once headed but left in disgrace, and the BJP, which he joined a year ago, only to remain sidelined. He, however, made it clear that his party was looking forward to contesting the Bihar Assembly polls due next year and already had prospective candidates for 140 out of 243 seats.

Singh indirectly targeted Kumar by attacking the much-touted prohibition law in the state and highlighting the deterioration in government education institutions, "a far cry from our student days when we could crack the civil services, without reservation facility and with no coaching".

Hailing from the same Nalanda district as the Bihar CM, Singh was an UP cadre IAS officer, and on Central deputation, he first came in contact with Kumar, then the railway minister.

After assuming power in Bihar in 2005, Kumar, who was visibly impressed with the administrative acumen of Singh, persuaded the latter to come to Bihar as his principal secretary. In 2010, Singh took voluntary retirement and joined JDU, which helped him enjoy two consecutive terms in the Rajya Sabha. However, in 2021, his induction into the Narendra Modi cabinet did not go down well with Kumar

Singh was made to step down as national president of JDU within months of becoming the party president, and denial of another Rajya Sabha term a year later caused him to give up the ministerial berth.

Thai foreign minister to visit India, meet EAM

NEW DELHI: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Maris Sangiampongsa, is scheduled to meet his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar here on November 2 as part of his soon-to-begin visit to India, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. Sangiampongsa is expected to arrive here late on Thursday night and depart on November 3, as per his itinerary shared in an advisory by the MEA. On November 1, the Thai minister will have engagements in the national capital while on November 2 he will meet External Affairs Minister Jaishankar at the South Block. Sangiampongsa visited New Delhi from July 11-13 for the second BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat hosted by the Indian foreign minister and for his first official visit to India. On July 12, Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with Sangiampongsa. **ENS**

TWO FOREIGN PARAGLIDERS DIE IN TWO DAYS IN HP, AHEAD OF WORLD CUP

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A day after the death of a Belgian paraglider, another paraglider from the Czech Republic was killed on Wednesday in Manali, Himachal Pradesh, after she crashed into the mountainside. Thus, two paragliders have died in two days in the hill state, ahead of the Paragliding World Cup 2024, commencing on November 2 in Bir Billing in Kangra district.

The deceased solo paraglider, 43-year-old Dita Misurcova, who had been in the sport for the past six years, crashed into the mountains near Marhi in Manali, as she lost control over the glider due to strong winds. She was immediately rushed to a hospital in Manali, where she was declared dead.

On Tuesday, the Belgian paraglider, Feyarets, collided mid-air with another paraglider from Poland in Bir Billing, as his parachute failed to open. Both paragliders had taken off separately. Meanwhile, the Polish paraglider sustained injuries too. Feyarets was a free-flying paraglider in his mid-sixties.

"While 10 paragliders were flying simultaneously and two of them crashed with each other mid-air, the Belgian paraglider died as his parachute did not open after the crash. The chances of accident increase when the free-fliers venture into high-risk zones or inner valleys with little knowledge of the topography and local wind conditions. We are in the process of documenting the thermals in the Bir Billing area, with the help of experts to reduce the probability of accidents while flying," Tourism of Kangra Deputy Director Vinay Dhiman informed.

Picture for representation

Avinash Negi, Director of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports in Manali, said, "A proposal to install special towers in high mountains to pinpoint crash sites in case of accidents is in the pipeline."

Separately, a suspected heart attack claimed the life of 50-year-old Russian, Aleksei Kozlochkov, in his hotel room in Bir village. He had arrived on October 16, and was staying with friends in Bir, and practising during the day.

On October 25, three foreign paragliders; Michael Karnik and Bernard Greg Collins from New Zealand, and Rosie from the UK, were rescued after they crash-landed in the mountains of Kullu, after having taken off from Billing.

11-yo sexual assault survivor can end pregnancy, says HC

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Thursday permitted an 11-year-old sexual assault survivor to terminate her 30-week pregnancy. The court said the minor shall undergo the procedure at JJ hospital. The girl had moved HC, seeking permission to end the pregnancy. Under the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, the court's permission is required to terminate a pregnancy beyond 20 weeks. As per the plea, the girl is a survivor of sexual assault and a case has been registered against an unknown person under the BNS and POCSO Act. Under the Constitution, the court said it can permit medical termination of a pregnancy that exceeds the 20-week gestation period in contingencies as set out in the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act. **ENS**

SIX DEAD

Six people, including four of a family, were killed when a tempo they were travelling in was hit by a tractor in the Mujaria area in UP, on Thursday morning, police said. Five injured were rushed to the district hospital.

5 HELD — CHHOTA RAJAN GANG MEMBERS IN MUMBAI

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

RASHTRIYA EKTA DIWAS

'Can't compromise on even an inch of our borders'

PM says his govt believes in strength of army to defend country, and not on words of the country's enemies

PTI @ Bhuj

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India cannot compromise on even an "inch" of land on its borders, adding that the people believe in the strength of its Armed Forces for defending the country.

India's enemies "see the end of their sinister plans" when they see the Indian Armed Forces, he said at Sir Creek in Gujarat's Kutch district, as he kept up his tradition of celebrating Diwali with personnel of the Armed Forces.

The spot is located close to the Indo-Pak border.

"In the past, attempts were made to turn this region into a battlefield. The enemy has set its eyes on this region for a long time. But we are not worried as you are guarding the nation. Our enemy also knows it well," Modi asserted.

"People of India feel their country is safe because of you; when the world sees you, it sees India's strength, when enemies see you, they see the end of their sinister plans," Modi said, addressing personnel of the Border Security Force, Army, Navy and Air Force.

"Today there is a government in the country which cannot compromise even on one inch of the country's borders," the prime minister added.

Attempts were made in the past to capture Sir Creek "in the name of diplomacy" by the enemy but he, as then Gujarat chief minister, had raised his voice against such attempts, Modi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrates Deepavali with BSF personnel on the floating border outposts at Lakki Nala in Sir Creek area of Kutch, Gujarat, on Thursday | PTI

His government believes in the strength of the army to defend the country and does not depend on the words of the country's enemies, Modi further said.

Notably, Indian and Chinese troops earlier this week completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh, following an agreement between the two countries to end an over four-year-old standoff along the Line of Actual Control. The prime minister, meanwhile, also said that we see the Army, Navy and Air Force as different entities, "but their strength will increase manifold when they come together." The creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was a step in this direction, and the government is now working on creating Integrated Theatre Command, which will bring in better coordination between the Army, Air Force and the Navy, the PM said.

Development of infrastructure in border areas was a "top priority", he added.

The PM said the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), a statutory body under the ownership of the Ministry of Defence, has so far built 80,000 km of roads, including strategically important ones.

Modi said his government is working on providing the latest equipment to the Armed Forces and turning them into one of the most advanced militaries in the world. "This is the era of new-age warfare. Drone technology is an example of that. Countries at war at present are using drones for different purposes. We are buying Predator drones for all the three wings of the armed forces," he said.

Simultaneously, many Indian firms are building drones as well, the PM pointed out.

As the country is moving fast towards the goal of developed India, "you all are protectors of this dream," Modi told the soldiers.

Kharge slams Modi over 'Urban Naxals' statement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AICC president **Mallikarjun Kharge** on Thursday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for raising the issue of 'Urban Naxals', and also for his veiled attack on the Congress, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of India's former deputy prime minister Sardar Vallabhai Patel.

Speaking at an event jointly marking the birth anniversary of Patel and the death anniversary of late prime minister Indira Gandhi, at the KPCC office here, Kharge claimed that he heard the entire speech of Modi, "which lacked the content that listed the achievements and sacrifice of both the leaders".

"He said that the people who roamed around along with the Constitution to safeguard democracy are 'Urban Naxals', who were trying to separate the country. Also, he criticised Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he spoke against the country abroad. Instead, he should have highlighted Patel's achievements. This man (Modi) who was born in Gujarat, where Mahatma Gandhi and Patel were also born and won freedom through peaceful struggle, has turned out to be a "destroyer" for the country. Late PM Indira Gandhi used to say she is ready to die for the country. Did Modi ever say like her for the country?" Kharge questioned.

Referring to the Congress' humiliating defeat in the recently concluded Haryana Assembly polls, Kharge alleged that the BJP and Modi have won the polls through "malpractice". "Indira Gandhi used to win the polls through her own influence by her pro-poor programmes. In Haryana, it is not because of Modi's influence that the BJP won. I was surprised as our tally came down to 33 from 66 seats. Overnight they (BJP) made some changes," he alleged.

He also expressed skepticism over the tampering of EVMs, as even multi-billionnaire entrepreneur Elon Musk had claimed that the machines can be hacked. "Except for 5-6 countries around the world, the rest of them, including the US, the UK, and Australia, conduct polls with ballot papers," he pointed out.

"They pass the buck on us with regard to EVMs, since we express suspicion when they win the polls and not when we win, like we did in Karnataka. But they know when and where to strike," he further claimed.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually unveils the 'Desh ka Vallabh' statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the Major Ralengnao 'Bob' Khathing 'Museum of Valour', in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, on Thursday | PTI

'Our efforts will be to take matter beyond disengagement'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Guwahati

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said a broad consensus was achieved by India and China to restore the ground situation in certain areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"India and China have been holding talks at both diplomatic and military levels to resolve the differences in some areas along the LAC. As a result of the talks, a broad consensus was developed on the basis of equal and mutual security," Singh said.

He made the statement after virtually inaugurating and dedicating to the nation 'Desh ka Vallabh' statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Major Ralengnao 'Bob' Khathing 'Museum of Valour' at Tawang from the 4 Corps headquarters in Assam's Tezpur. He was supposed to visit Tawang, but could not due to inclement weather.

"The consensus includes the rights of patrolling and grazing in traditional areas, based on which, the process of disengagement is almost complete. Our efforts will be to take the matter beyond disengagement; but for that, we will have to wait a little longer," the defence minister said.

He paid tributes to Sardar Patel, also known as the Iron Man of India, acknowledging his instrumental role in unifying over 560 princely states post-independence. "This statue 'Desh Ka Vallabh' will inspire people, reminding them of the strength in unity and the unwavering spirit required to build a nation as diverse as ours," Singh said.

He also paid homage to Major Bob Khathing, an extraordinary figure who made invaluable contributions to the Northeast and national security. "Major Khathing not only led the peaceful integration of Tawang into India, but also established essential military and security frameworks, including the Sashastra Seema Bal, Nagaland Armed Police, and the Naga Regiment. The 'Museum of Valour' now stands as a tribute to his bravery and foresight, inspiring generations to come," Singh said.

He underscored the significance of unity and harmony, and the Northeast's unique role in the nation's identity. He reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of ensuring economic and infrastructure development of the entire region.

"Holistic development of the nation is possible only when the Northeast prospers. We will create such a Northeast which is strong and prosperous, not only naturally and culturally, but also economically," Singh said.

Efforts on to 'appropriate' Patel's legacy: Congress

PTI @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Thursday paid its tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary and alleged continuous efforts are being made to "appropriate" his legacy by those whose "ideological gurus" opposed the Quit India Movement and criticised the Constitution.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Respectful tributes to the Iron Man of India, the first Deputy Prime Minister of the country, former Congress President and our idol, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ji, who made an independent India a complete country, on his birth anniversary." "Sardar Patel's personality and thoughts will always inspire the coming generations to serve the nation," he said on X.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi remembered Patel as the leader who tied the country together in a thread of unity and integrity. "His footprints that united India and established love and brotherhood in the country always guide us," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh hailed him as a pivotal figure in the freedom movement and shaping the creation of post-1947 India. "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is an immortal part of the nation's history. He was also a stalwart Congressman. Continuous efforts are being made to (mis) appropriate his legacy by those whose ideological gurus opposed the Quit India Movement in which the Sardar was jailed for almost three years and who criticised the Constitution, a key committee of which was chaired by the Sardar later," Ramesh said in a post on X.

"This only exposes the insecurities and hypocrisy of the (mis)appropriators," he added.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in a post on X gave her tributes to "one of the architects of modern India."

"From India's freedom struggle to the creation of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ji's contribution is an example of service and dedication towards the country," she said.

President Droupadi Murmu pays homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary, at Patel Chowk, in New Delhi, on Thursday | PTI

President Murmu, Vice-President Dhankhar pay tributes to Sardar Patel on National Unity Day

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and other dignitaries on Thursday paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary, observed as National Unity Day. The tributes were paid at the statue of India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister at Patel Chowk here. "Humble tributes from the grateful nation on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man, who ensured the unification of the country! Sardar Patel was a great patriot and a leading nation builder. We should take inspiration from his ideals to work relentlessly for nation building," Murmu said in a post on X in Hindi. She also paid floral tributes to Sardar Patel at Gantantra Mandap, Rashtrapati Bhavan. Born in Nadiad, Gujarat, in 1875, Patel was a pivotal figure in India's Struggle for Independence. Renowned for his exceptional leadership and unyielding commitment to national integration, he is fondly remembered as the "Iron Man of India." National Unity Day serves as a reminder of his efforts to unite the diverse princely states into a single nation and fosters a spirit of solidarity among the people of India. PTI

CANADA'S ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SHAH 'CONCERNING', SAYS US

WASHINGTON: Canada's allegations against Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** are 'concerning', the US said on Wednesday, noting that it would continue to consult Ottawa on the issue. "The allegations made by Canada are concerning, and we will continue to consult with the Canadian government about those allegations," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference. Canada's National Security and Intelligence Adviser Nathalie Drouin and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison, members of the national security committee of the Canadian Parliament confirmed a leaked Washington Post reports alleging that Shah was behind the campaign of targeting Khalistani separatists in Canada. In response to a question Morrison said he had 'confirmed' Shah's name to The Washington Post. "The journalist called me and asked if it was that person. I confirmed it was that person," he said.

Your sacrifice inspires us: Cong on Indira's anniversary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Congress paid tributes on Thursday to former prime minister Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary, with party leader Rahul Gandhi saying her sacrifice for the country's unity and integrity will always "inspire us all on the path of public service". The then prime minister was assassinated by her bodyguards here on this day in 1984. Indira Gandhi was India's first woman prime minister. She was born on November 19, 1917.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi paid floral tributes to his grandmother at the Shakti Sthal here and also visited the former prime minister's memorial on 1, Safdarjung Road.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge shared a quote of the former prime minister on serving the country till her last breath. "Humble tributes to India's first woman prime minister and our ideal, Indira Gandhi ji on her martyrdom day," he said.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi pays his respects to his late garndmother, former prime minister Indira Gandhi, on her death anniversary at Shakti Sthal, in New Delhi, on Thursday | PTI

Kharge said Indira Gandhi played an important role in maintaining India's unity and integrity, and in building a strong and progressive India with her strong will, efficient leadership and foresight.

In a post in Hindi on X, Rahul Gandhi said, "Panditji's Indu, Bapu's Priyadarshini, fearless, justice-loving -- Indira of India!"

"Grandma, your sacrifice for the unity and integrity of the country will always inspire us all on the path of public service," he said, and shared a video montage on the contributions of Indira Gandhi.

Congress general secretary and Indira Gandhi's granddaughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "Your dedication to the country, your sacrifice; the lessons learnt from you and the values you imparted will always be our guide. Salute to your martyrdom."

DIWALI TRADITION

Troops exchange sweets along LAC

PTI @New Delhi

TROOPS of India and China exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), including at locations in eastern Ladakh, on the occasion of Diwali on Thursday.

The traditional practice was observed a day after both countries completed troop disengagement at the two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh, bringing a fresh thaw in the Sino-Indian ties.

"Sweets exchange between members of the troops of India and China took place at several border points along the LAC on the occasion of Diwali," an Army source said.

The exchange took place at all the five Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) points along the LAC — Bum La and Wacha/Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh, Chushul-Moldo and Daulat Beg Oldi in Ladakh and Nathu La in Sikkim — among several other locations, sources added. Sweets were also exchanged at Kongk La, KK Pass and Hot Springs (in eastern Ladakh), they said.

Indian and Chinese Army personnel exchange sweets at a border point along the Line of Actual Control | PTI

As a traditional practice, Indian and Chinese troops have in the past exchanged sweets and greetings at several border posts along the LAC, including in eastern Ladakh, to mark festivals and other important occasions.

On Wednesday, an Army source said that troops of both sides had completed the disengagement at the two friction points and patrolling would commence soon at these points.

The verification process after the disengagement was in progress and patrolling modalities were to be decided between ground commanders, the source said then.

'Talks will continue at the local commander level," the Army source added.

On Thursday, an Army source said patrolling was yet to resume. Sources earlier had said the areas and patrolling status were expected to be moved back to pre-April 2020 level.

5 People killed in flooding from Storm Trami in central Vietnam

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	7	SNY	Los Angeles	21	8	SNY
Colombo	29	24	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	33	21	SNY	Moscow	10	1	HR
Dubai	35	21	SNY	New York	25	9	SNY
Houston	29	22	LR	Singapore	33	24	TDS
Istanbul	20	10	SNY	Toronto	11	4	LC
London	15	10	LC	Washington	26	10	SNY

Harris, Trump head west in poll race countdown

Latest CNN polls show that Harris has narrow advantage in Michigan and Wisconsin, while it's a tie in Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA

VICE PRESIDENT Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump will take their nail-biting White House race west, seeking supremacy on border security and aiming to woo crucial Latino voters days ahead of the US election. Kamala and Trump held competing rallies in Wisconsin while trying to outperform each other in the key battleground state.

The latest CNN polls showed that Harris has a narrow advantage in Michigan and Wisconsin, while she and Trump remain tied in Pennsylvania.

In Michigan, Harris holds a lead over Trump by 48% to 43% among likely voters, according to the findings.

Harris also leads Trump in Wisconsin, where 51% support her to 45% for Trump, but the race is tied in Pennsylvania, with both having 48% support. Campaigning out west, the two candidates are hoping to entice Hispanic voters and earn credit on the crucial election issue of migration.

US Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump speak at their respective campaign rallies | AFP

Trump is travelling to New Mexico and Virginia in the campaign's final days, taking a risky detour from the seven battleground states to spend time in places where Republican presidential candidates have not won in decades. The former president will campaign in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Thursday and Salem, Virginia, on Saturday.

Trump is betting that frustrations over the Biden-Harris administration's immigration policy will swing Arizona, which shares a border with Mexico, back in his favour.

Biden beat Trump in Arizona in 2020, becoming the first Democrat since Bill Clinton in 1996 to win the state's electoral college votes. Latinos have traditionally voted more in favour of Democrats, but recent polling shows a noticeable trend toward Republicans.

The latest New York Times/Siena poll showed Harris with 52% of support among Hispanic voters to Trump's 42 percent.

Both candidates will be in North Carolina on the weekend as part of a blitz of the battleground states, with Harris also visiting Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania before Election Day.

US PREZ ELECTION

D-Day: November 5

- Early voting: Over **59 million** Americans already cast votes
- **31,018,125** cast votes in person
- **27,952,363** votes through mail
- Seven key swing states: Georgia, Michigan, Arizona, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Wisconsin and Nevada
- Successful candidate will have to secure **270** of 538 votes

'Garbage' row

Trump mounted a sharp attack on Harris while using President Joe Biden's comments that appeared to call Trump's supporters "garbage".

Dressed in a garbage vest, Trump arrived at the venue of the rally in Wisconsin's Green Bay area in a dump truck and addressed several thousand of his supporters, arguing that Harris is not fit to become the President. "My response to Joe and Kamala is very simple: You can't be president if you hate the American people, which I believe they do, and Kamala Harris is not fit to be president of the United States," he said.

Earlier, Harris distanced herself from Biden's "garbage" remarks, saying she strongly disagrees with criticising anyone based on how they vote. *Agencies*

Death toll in Spain flood soars to 158

SPAIN

SPAIN mourned at least 158 deaths on Thursday and authorities told people in flood-stricken regions to stay at home as rescuers raced to find survivors of the rare disaster.

An exceptionally powerful Mediterranean storm from Tuesday unleashed heavy rains and torrents of mud-filled water that swept away people and wrecked homes, with the eastern Valencia region hit hardest. The body coordinating rescue work in the Valencia region announced that 155 bodies had been recovered there by Thursday afternoon.

With many people still missing and some areas remaining inaccessible to rescuers, government ministers had warned Wednesday's provisional toll of 95 was likely to rise.

"Please, stay at home... follow the calls of the emergency services," pleaded Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez. "Right now the most important thing is to save as many lives as possible," Sanchez told residents of the eastern Valencia and Castellon provinces. King Felipe VI warned the emergency was "still not over" and national weather service AEMET put parts of eastern and southern regions on high alert levels for rain on Thursday.

Cars seen piled up on a railway track on Thursday after flash floods ravaged the town of Alfafar in the region of Valencia in eastern Spain | AFP

Flags flew at half-mast on government buildings and minutes of silence were observed nationwide at the start of three days of national mourning after Spain's deadliest floods in decades.

Emergency services backed by drones and over 1,200 troops combed mud-caked towns and villages to find survivors and clear roads of debris.

Abandoned vehicles lay piled on top of each other like dominoes and some residents grabbed planks of wood to plough through layers of thick, sticky mud. Hundreds of people are being sheltered in temporary accommodation while road and rail transport have been severely disrupted.

Scientists say human-driven climate change is increasing the length, frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that are increasingly unpredictable and difficult to control. *AFP*

Rocket barrages from Lebanon kill seven in Israel

ISRAEL

SEVEN people died after Lebanon fired rockets into northern Israel twice on Thursday, Israeli medics said.

The attack came as senior US diplomats were in the region to push for cease-fires in Lebanon and Gaza, hoping to wind down the wars in the Middle East in the Biden administration's final months. Hezbollah has been firing rockets, drones and missiles into Israel, and drawing retaliatory strikes, since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack out of the Gaza Strip triggered the war there. Hezbollah and Hamas are allies backed by Iran.

The conflict along the border escalated into a full-blown war last month, when Israel launched a wave of heavy airstrikes across Lebanon and killed Hezbollah's top leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and most of his deputies. Israeli ground forces pushed into Lebanon at the start of October.

The Israeli military said roughly 25 rockets crossed into Israel from Lebanon as part of the volley that struck an olive grove where people had gathered for the harvest.

The deadly attack came just hours after local officials in Metula, in northern Israel, said that projectiles fired from Lebanon had struck an agricultural area, killing four foreign workers and an Israeli farmer.

Earlier on Thursday, the Israeli military warned people to evacuate from more areas of southern Lebanon, as airstrikes in different parts of the country killed eight people, according to Lebanon's state-run National News Agency.

Israel has warned people to evacuate from large areas of the country, including major cities in the south and east. Some 1.2 million people have been displaced since the escalation in September. *AP*

Truce deals must guarantee Israel security: Bibi to US

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu told visiting US envoy Amos Hochstein & US Middle East adviser Brett McGurk that any truce deal with Hezbollah must guarantee Israeli security

- The UN children's agency said the war has killed at least one child a day in Lebanon over the past month
- Four Palestinians were killed in Israeli military operations in the occupied West Bank city, the Palestinian health ministry said

12-yr-old dies as Russian bomb hits Ukraine city

KYIV

RUSSIAN forces struck a residential building in Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv early on Thursday, killing a 12-year-old boy and injuring scores of others.

Regional head Oleh Syniehubov said the boy was fatally injured when the building was hit by a Russian 500-kg (1,100-pound) glide bomb.

'He was freed from under the rubble with severe head injuries and fractures," Syniehubov wrote on his messaging app channel. "Doctors performed resuscitation measures for more than half an hour. Unfortunately, it was not possible to save the child.' Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said at least 35 people suffered injuries in the attack and others could be still trapped under the rubble.

Russia has increasingly used powerful glide bombs to pummel Ukrainian positions along the 1,000-km (600-miles) line of contact and strike cities dozens of km from the frontline.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has repeatedly urged the United States to allow Ukraine to use long-range American missiles to strike air bases deeper in Russia that are used by aicraft carrying glide bombs. Washington so far only has allowed some strikes close to the border.

Zelenskyy repeated his demand on Thursday, publishing a video showing the ravaged building. 'Partners see what is happening every day," Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram. *AP*

Corpse walkers to death worm, scary tales abound

SOME are well-worn warnings as familiar as the changing of seasons. Others are slow burns that end with a bang. Still others are just plain eerie. Stories of spiritual entities, paranormal activity and creepy cryptids are passed through generations the world over, becoming local legends that only sometimes reach across borders and cultures.

With Halloween nigh, and the season ripe for campfires and spooky stories, people gravitate toward fear even in a complex world. Here are some favourites that the AP gathered from its journalists around the planet:

China: The corpse walkers

If you were out on the road in China in the old days — if you believe the stories, that is — you might have encountered a strange procession. First, a man carrying a white paper lantern and scattering fake paper money ahead of them, chanting, "Yo ho, yo ho." Then, a towering, hooded black figure wearing a ghastly mask and marching in an awkward, wooden gait. Bringing up the rear, another man guiding the giant by touch, perhaps with a black cat. They were corpse walkers — and the giant was the corpse.

Bad things happen when someone gets buried far from home: Without descendants to feed their spirit and keep their grave clean, they'll have a hard time settling in. They could even come back as a hungry ghost. So when a traveller died, the family would hire people who knew the strange art of walking a stiff body home.

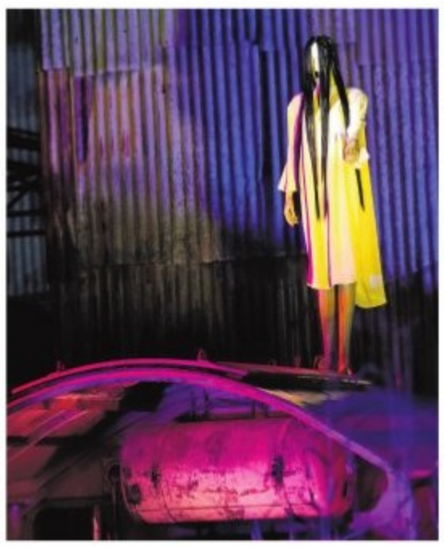
Mongolia: The death worm

Slithering beneath the vast dunes of the Gobi Desert, legend has it, is the monstrous Mongolian Death Worm. It kills prey by squirting lethal venom and can even electrocute from a distance. So goes the folklore that has since inspired depictions of deadly giant worms in movies and fiction. In Mongolia, the creature is known as olgoi khorkhoi, which roughly translates as "intestine worm."

Thailand: Lady Nak of Phra Khanong

Bangkok is home to one of Thailand's most famous pieces of folklore: the tragic love of Mae Nak, or the Lady Nak of Phra Khanong. The young and pregnant Nak was waiting for her husband, Mak, to come back from war to their home on the banks of Phra Khanong canal. Nak and her baby died during childbirth, but Mak still came home to see them waiting. With his unwavering love, Mak rejected warnings that Nak was a ghost until he saw her stretching her arm from the upper-floor porch to the ground to pick up a lime.

He fled, and Nak started terrorizing the town in grief and fury. *AP*



A ghost mannequin at Goosebump market as a part of Halloween festival in Bangkok, Thailand | AP

ASIA MATTERS

CORALS SHOW SIGNS OF RECOVERY

Amid warnings of the largest recorded global bleaching event, Singapore's corals are showing signs of recovery as sea surface temperatures began to fall, The Strait Times reported. However, about 20% to 30% of them are still showing signs of bleaching and the marine heatwave has taken its toll on some corals here.

AT LEAST 11 KILLED IN LAND DISPUTE

At least 11 people were killed in southern Philippines during a fierce gun battle and knife fight that broke out between warring command units of an armed rebel group, authorities said on Thursday. The Philippines army and police reported 11 dead during the clash that broke out on Wednesday afternoon in a remote village of Maguindanao del Sur province between members of Moro Islamic Liberation Front -- the country's largest rebel group. But a local official put the death toll at 19, and said the armed fight was over "a longstanding land dispute in the area".

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **MR. Gajanana .R Naik** is proposing to purchase the Residential House property bearing Northern Portion House List Site No. 14, in Property No. 48, Khatha No. 858, Situated at Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, under the limits of BBMP.; Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 30 feet, totally 900 Sq.ft.; and bounded on the: **East by:** Property bearing No. 15 of K.P. Jayarama Reddy & K.P. Nagaraj Reddy, **West by :** Property bearing No. 13, **North by :** Road and **South by :** Private Property/Remaining portion of Property bearing No.14,
from its present owner MR. S. Mahesh. S/o. Mr. Late Srinivasareddy, Residing at No. 103/104, Yellamma Nilaya, 2nd Cross Surabhinagar, 8th Phase, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore- 560 076. If anybody having any objection for the same or anybody having any claim on the said property, is requested to contact the undersigned within **7 days** of the publication of this notice. Any claim made after the period of **7 days** will not be binding on my client.

SOMASHEKHARA A.N, Advocate
No. 105, 3rd Floor, MR Mansion, 12th 'D' Main Road, Muthyalanagar, Bengaluru - 560 054

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE
Original Application No.664/2024

State Bank of India, SARB, J.C. Road, Bangalore. ...Applicant
Versus
Sri Roopesh Kumar Reddy & Another ...Defendants

SUMMONS /NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, Defendants

1. Sri Roopesh Kumar Reddy S/o. Sri Kesava Reddy, aged about 39 years, R/at: No. 104, First Floor, Raaya Homes, Sorahunase Village, Varthur H. Bangalore - 560 087

2. Smt. T. Dharani, W/o. Sri Roopesh Kumar Reddy, aged about 39 years, R/at: No. 104, First Floor, Raaya Homes, Sorahunase Village, Varthur H. Bangalore - 560 087

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.61,30,005/-** (Rupees Sixty One Lakhs Thirty Thousand and Five Only) mentioned therein together with current and future interest and other reliefs. The above defendants are therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense within 30 days from the date of publication or on **03.12.2024 at 10.30 am** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **08.10.2024.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II Bangalore
Advocate for Applicant Bank
Mrs. Malini Vinay

VEERASHAIVA SAHAKARI BANK LTD.,
Administrative Office : No. 1732/32, M.C.Road, M.C.Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040 Phone : 23307070 / 23358017 Fax : 23148550
E-mail : vsbbengaluru@gmail.com

AUCTION SALE OF RESIDENTIAL VACANT SITES

Auction Sale under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest 2002 of the Residential Vacant Sites mortgaged with **M/s. Veerashaiva Sahakari Bank Ltd,** Admin. Office : No. 1732/32, M.C.Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560040. The Auction is under **'AS IS, WHERE IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS'**

Sl No.	Name & Address of the Borrower and Guarantors	Description of the Residential Vacant Sites Mortgaged to Bank	Amount Due to the Bank	Date of Public Auction
1	**Sri Kiran Krishna Reddy** S/o Late Kondaiah Residing at 'Sri Rama Nilaya' 6th Main, Opp SRS Building, Kammagondanahalli, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru-560015. **Loan A/c No. MTLN 10080 (Rajajinagar Branch)** **Name of the Guarantor:** **Smt. Lakshmi Prasanna** W/o Sri Kiran Krishna Reddy residing address as above **Reserve Price** for site No. 6 and 7 **Rs. 67,20,000/-** (Rupees sixty seven lakh twenty thousand only) **Reserve Price** for site No. 2 and 3 **Rs. 67,20,000/-** (Rupees sixty seven lakh twenty thousand only) **Reserve Price Total** for site No. 6 & 7 and 2 & 3 **Rs,1,34,40,000/-** (Rupees One crore thirty four lakh forty thousand only)	**1.** All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Site bearing No. 6 & 7, BBMP Khatha No. 60/4/12/6/7 (Old Survey No. 60 then 60/3 and New Survey No. 60/4 of Shettyhally Village, Yeshwantapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk), Royal Street, Shettyhally, BBMP Ward No.12, T Dasahally Zone, Bengaluru. **Measuring :East to West : 30 Ft. North to South : 80 Ft.** **Total 2400 Sqft. and bounded on :** East by : Road, West by : Private Property (Sriram Properties) North by : Site No. 05 South by : Private Property **2.** All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Site bearing No. 2 & 3, BBMP Khatha No. 60/4/12/2/3 (Old Survey No. 60 then 60/3 and New Survey No. 60/4 of Shettyhally Village, Yeshwantapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk), Royal Street, Shettyhally, BBMP Ward No.12, T Dasahally Zone, Bengaluru. **Measuring :East to West : 30 Ft. North to South : 80 Ft.** **Total 2400 Sqft. and bounded on :** East by : Road, West by : Private Property (Sriram Properties) North by : Site No. 01 South by : Site No. 04	**Amount Due to The Bank Principal Balance & Interest and other charges Rs.1,09,92,384/-** (Rupees one crore nine lakh ninenty two thousand three hundred eighty four only) as on 30-09-2024 and further interest & other charges as applicable. **EMD** (Refundable) for Site No. 6 & 7 **Rs. 6,72,000/-** (Rupees Six lakh seventy two thousand only) **EMD** (Refundable) for Site No. 2 & 3 **Rs.6,72,000/-** (Rupees Six lakh seventy two thousand only) **EMD TOTAL Rs.13,44,000/-** (Rupees Thirteen lakh forty four thousand only)	**09-12-2024 Monday at 11.00 a.m.**

Place of Auction :
Veerashaiva Sahakari Bank Ltd.,
Admin. Office, No. 1732/32, M.C.Road, M.C.Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560040.

Demand Notice U/s 13(2) of the Said Act issued on 08-01-2021
Possession Notice U/s 13(4) of the said Act issued on 18-10-2022 and Published on 22-10-2022

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION SALE

1. The Public Auction will be conducted in the premises at **Veerashaiva Sahakari Bank Ltd.,** Admin. Office, No. 1732/32, M.C.Road, M.C.Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040.
2. Bids should be submitted in a closed cover addressed to the Authorised Officer and should reach the above address accompanied by a refundable interest free EMD, in the form of **RTGS/NEFT/Pay Order/Demand Draft** of a Scheduled Bank favouring of **Veerashaiva Sahakari Bank Ltd.,** Bengaluru. **A/c Sri Kiran Krishna Reddy S/o Late Kondaiah Payable at Bengaluru on or before 4.30 P.M. on 07-12-2024**
   The sale will be in **'AS IS WHERE IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS'.**
3. The property will not be sold below the **'RESERVE PRICE'**
4. The Successful bidder should pay 25% of the bid amount (inclusive of EMD) immediately on the same day and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days thereafter. If the successful bidder defaults in effecting payment or fails to adhere to the terms of sale in any manner, the amount already deposited will be forfeited and he/she shall not have any claim on such forfeited amount or to the property, which will be sold subsequently.
5. On confirmation of sale by the authorised officer and if the terms of payment have been complied with the authorised officer exercising the power of sale shall issue a sale certificate of Immovable property in favour of the purchaser in the form given in appendix-V of the Securitisation Act, 2002.
6. The EMD of the unsuccessful bidder will be returned immediately on conclusion of the auction.
7. At any stage of the auction, the authorised officer shall have the power to accept or reject the bids or postpone/ cancel the auction without assigning any reason thereof including addition or deletion of other terms.
8. All other charges, expenses like conveyance, Electricity, BWSSB, Legal, Stamp duty, Registration Fee, Arrears of Tax charged if any, shall be borne by the purchaser only.
   For further details, Please contact the Branch Manager, Rajajinagar Branch, during office hours between 9.00 AM to 4.30 PM on any working day. Contact Telephone No. 080 23402145 & Mobile No.9986038905 or Authorised Officer Contact Telephone No. 080 23358017 & Mobile 9986038903.
9. For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending bidders are at liberty to make their own inspection/assessment, enquiries about the property
10. The Sale is subject to the confirmation by the bank. This **is also a notice to the borrower for information and necessary action.**

sd/-
Authorised Officer,
Veerashaiva Sahakari Bank Ltd.,
Bengaluru-560040

Bengaluru
Date : 31-10-2024

22% jump in gold imports to $27 billion during April-September this fiscal due to strong domestic demand, as per govt data

Realtors beat Q2 blues, give optimistic outlook

Strong show by realty companies comes even as most sectors battled slowdown in the quarter with earnings missing estimates

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

REAL estate sector shrugged off weak corporate earnings concerns in the July-September quarter (Q2FY25) as top players reported mani-fold increase in profit and their shares received a strong 'buy' call from brokerages. The strong show put up by realty companies comes as most sectors battled a slowdown in the quarter with earnings missing street estimates. As per ratings agency Crisil, the revenue growth of Indian companies for the July-September quarter is projected to be between 5-7% year-on-year (Y-o-Y), marking the slowest growth in 16 quarters.

The country's largest real estate company by market capitalisation DLF saw its profit jump two-fold year-on-year in Q2FY25 to ₹1,381 crore on higher income amid robust demand for its luxury properties. Total income for the National Capital Region-based firm rose 48% to ₹2,181 crore.

Similarly, Godrej Properties and Macrotech Developers also reported strong set of numbers. Godrej Properties' profit surged more than 4.5 times in the quarter-ended September to ₹333.8 crore and its revenue from operations rose to ₹1,093 crore while Macrotech Developers (Lodha) reported a 113% year-on-year surge in its profit to ₹423 crore and 50% surge in revenue to ₹2,626 crore.

Oberoi Realty also reported a 28% YoY jump in net profit at Rs 589 crore for the second quarter that ended on September 30, 2024. The company's revenue from operations increased 8.4% to ₹1,320 crore.

Strong Outlook

Amid growing consolidation in the sector and higher demand for luxury properties, most players expect strong growth in the quarters to follow. DFL said that the outlook for the residential business continues to be strong and their development business continues to exhibit steady performance.

The outlook guidance comes even as DLF reported its weakest bookings in 17 quarters, citing a slowdown in sales due to delays in obtaining necessary approvals for new product launches. The company's new sales bookings fell by 69% year-on-year, totaling ₹692 crore. However, during the first half of FY25, DLF saw a 66% rise in sales bookings to ₹7,094 crore. In its investor presentation, DLF stated that the company has obtained authorisation for its high-end housing project -- The Dahlias -- in DLF 5, Gurugram during this quarter. DLF said that they are still on course to achieve their projections for the entire fiscal year. The company plans to do ₹17,000 crore in sales booking for the entire fiscal year.

During H1FY25, Godrej Properties sold properties worth over ₹13,800 crore, and Macrotech Developers' sales bookings stood at ₹8,320 crore. Godrej Properties' sales booking value grew 89% year-on-year while that of Macrotech grew by 21%. Godrej Properties achieved the highest-ever H1 sales booking value. The two Mumbai-based realtors have expressed confidence in achieving their sales bookings targets for 2024-25. While Godrej Properties has set a target of ₹27,500 crore worth of sales bookings for the full fiscal, Macrotech Developers has given a sales guidance of ₹17,500 crore.

"With a robust launch pipeline, strong balance sheet, and resilient demand, we are on track to significantly surpass our bookings target of ₹27,000 core in FY25 while also achieving our highest-ever deliveries and collections," said Pirojsha Godrej, executive chairperson of Godrej Properties Limited.

Abhishek Lodha, MD & CEO, Macrotech Developers, said: "We achieved our best-ever quarterly pre-sales performance of ₹4,290 crore in Q2FY25 which is a seasonally weak quarter due to monsoons. Additionally, the quarter was impacted by the inauspicious 'Shraddh' period in September this year (vs October in FY24) as well as excessive rains. Despite this disruption, we achieved our third consecutive quarter of ₹4,000+ pre-sales."

DLF profit jumps 2-fold in Q2FY25 to ₹1,381 cr

Country's largest real estate company by market cap DLF saw its profit jumping two-fold YoY in Q2FY25 to ₹1,381 crore on higher income amid robust demand for its luxury properties. Total income for the National Capital Region-based firm rose 48% to ₹2,181 crore this quarter.

Realtors see strong grwoth in coming qtrs

Amid growing consolidation and higher demand for luxury properties, realtors expect strong growth in the quarters to follow. DFL said outlook for residential business continues to be strong and their development business to exhibit steady performance

CASA deposits in focus: Can Bank MD

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

MANAGING director and CEO of Bengaluru-based Satyanarayana Raju Canara Bank has said that the bank is focused on increasing its CASA ratio as its cost of capital is higher than other peer banks.

The CASA (Current Account and Savings Account) ratio of the bank at the end of September quarter was 31% much below other banks for whom the CASA ratio hovers around 40%. The bank's CASA has shown an uptick of 28 basis points quarter-on-quarter. In June Quarter, CASA was 30.98%, while at the end September quarter, CASA increased to 31.27%. In absolute numbers also, quarter-on-quarter CASA increased by ₹8,000 crore. "We have almost launched more than 10 section-focused targets in the products. We have launched for the last 20 months, which has attracted very well from various sections of the society, and that has garnered almost Rs 17,000 -18,000 crore in the savings bank account," said Satyanarayana Raju in an analysts call.

He further said in order to keep cost of funds under control, the bank is using alternative resources like infrastructure bonds or raising window available with the RBI by pledging the excess SLRs. Raju informed the analysts that the bank's cost of deposit is stabilized at 5.7%. "Our net interest margin (NIM) has slightly come down as against the peer banks. It came down from 2.9 to 2.88. Though there is a lot of pressure on cost of deposits, we could manage this due to efficient management of our resources, alternative resources, and efficient lending at little higher cost," the MD and CEO said.

He further reiterated that while most banks have lost their NIMs from minimum 7 basis points to almost 12 to 13 basis points, Canara Bank has lost only 2 basis points. In the second quarter, the bank's net profit rose by 11.31% as its quarterly profits crossed ₹4,000 crore for the first time.

Q2FY25 RESULTS

Star Health PAT falls 11% to ₹111 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

STAR Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd (Star Health Insurance) has reported an 11% decline in net profit for the second quarter of the current financial year. The company reported ₹111 crore in profit during the quarter compared with Rs 125 crore. However, the revenue grew by 16.6% during the quarter to ₹3,914 crore. In the first half of the year, the company posted posted profit after tax of ₹430 crore.

Roy said the company's investment assets grew by 17.2% and reached ₹16,431 crores as on 30-Sep 2024, with an investment income of ₹354 crore. The combined ratio in Q2FY25 stood at 103% and 101% in H1 FY25. The Company retained its leadership position in retail health insurance, with a market share of 32% and among SAHI players with a market share of 55.3%.

The company focused on expanding its agency strength, posting strong agency business growth of 17% in fresh GWP in H1FY25. The agency business vertical contributed to 80% of overall business in H1FY25 with increased agency strength at 742k agents with recruitment of 25k agents in Q2FY25. This growth highlights Star Health's continued efforts to meet the evolving insurance needs across India, especially within tier 3 and tier four cities and towns. Anand Roy, MD and CEO of Star Health and Allied Insurance stated, "At Star Health, we are committed to bringing innovative, affordable products to all socioeconomic segments of society, leveraging technology and robust partnerships with healthcare providers to enhance service delivery. By introducing modular plans that adapt to customers' needs across life stages, allowing for customization and scalability - and expanding our inclusive offerings, we have strengthened our reach across key segments. We remain laser-focused on ensuring accessible and affordable health insurance for every Indian, especially in underserved markets."

The Bancassurance business, which includes banks, NBFCs and alternate channels, saw fresh GWP growth of 25%. In corporate business, the company recalibrated its corporate business strategy and witnessed major growth on a low base. The digital business comprised of direct-to-customer, online brokers and web aggregators has also shown strong growth in fresh business of over 41% in H1FY25. For H1FY25, the operating expense to GWP ratio stood at 15.6%, reflecting effective cost control compared to 17% in H1FY24 with an expense ratio at 30.8%.

Biocon reports loss of ₹16 crore on account of higher tax

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

BENGALURU-based Biocon on Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹16 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2024 on account of higher tax, based on geographical split of profits. The company had posted a net profit of ₹126 crore for the July-September period last fiscal.

Revenue from operations stood at ₹3,590 crore in the September quarter as compared with ₹3,462 crore in the year-ago period, Biocon Ltd said in a statement.

"Biocon Group's overall second quarter of current financial year financial and operational performance provides a foundation for improved performance as we move into the second half of the fiscal," Biocon Group Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said.

The group had a robust performance in the biosimilars business driven by strong market share gains in US Oncology and Insulin franchises, she noted. Syngene has returned to sequential growth and has good visibility of a pickup in momentum in the coming quarters led by its discovery services and biomanufacturing CMO business, she said.

"Generics has continued to face price and demand pressures that have suppressed performance, but key new formulation launches in Q3 and Q4 provide the basis of a turnaround before the year end," she stated.

All three businesses are tracking towards a better performance in the second half of the year, on the back of product approvals and unfolding market opportunities, Mazumdar-Shaw said.

Tata Power profit rises nearly 8% to ₹1,093 cr

NEW DELHI: Tata Power has reported nearly 8% rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹1,093.08 crore for the September quarter, mainly on the back of higher revenues. The company had reported a net profit of ₹1,017.41 crore in the quarter ended September 30, a BSE filing showed. Total income rose to ₹16,210.80 crore in the quarter from ₹16.029.54 crore a year ago. Praveer Sinha, CEO and Managing Director, Tata Power, said, "Our Generation, Transmission & Distribution, and Renewable businesses continue to witness sustained growth momentum as India sees record power demand and investment in the new Age of Electricity". All business segments have performed remarkably well during the quarter, leading to 20th consecutive quarterly PAT (net profit) growth, he pointed out. The 4.3 GW module plant is already fully operational, establishing Tata Power as a leader in solar manufacturing, he noted. *ENS*

Dabur net profit declines 17.6% to ₹417.5 crore

NEW DELHI: FMCG major Dabur India has reported a decline of 17.65% in its consolidated net profit to ₹417.52 crore for the quarter ending September 2024 on account of high food inflation and squeeze in urban demand. The company had posted a net profit of ₹507.04 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, Dabur India said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations slipped 5.46 per cent to ₹3,028.59 crore during the quarter under review. It was Rs 3,203.84 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. Dabur India's total expenses were at ₹2,634.40 crore, down 1.31 per cent in the September quarter. "Despite a challenging demand environment due to high food inflation and squeeze in urban demand, Dabur continued to drive consumer engagement across its key brands to end Q2FY25 with a consolidated revenue of ₹3,029 crore," Dabur said in its earnings statement. *ENS*

'Uncorrelated investment strategies gaining rapid prominence for HNIs'

INVESTMENT landscape for High net worth Individuals (HNIs) has seen key changes in the past decade. TNIE caught up with **Manas Chadha**, managing director, wealth management India, Lighthouse Canton India, in an interaction with **Dipak Mondal** details the current investment trends for HNIs. **Excerpts:**

What are the current trends in investment for HNIs? What are the asset classes that HNIs prefer nowadays?

Entire investing landscape has gone under see-through changes in last 5-7 years. This has also been due to increased regulatory framework coming into play which only expanded entire opportunity set and brought all around acceptance. Today, investing diaspora has expanded meaningfully to unconventional avenues which continue to now garner significant share. Emergence of millennials with deep awareness, investing acumen, agility to move ahead with untapped opportunities and increased acceptance for higher level of risk-reward play has further brought institutional enforcement to overall cause.

To talk about specifics, private market investing has come of age where broader risk-reward spectrum ranges from seed stage investing to last mile growth stage funding – Just before IPO (Pre-IPO opportunities). Savvy clients continue to scout and eye co-investing or independent opportunities as well which is where deeply entrenched pedigree of ours comes into play. Venture debt is an emerging and untapped opportunity which hasn't been explored to its potential in India.

Emergence of REIT & INVITs has offered another set of uncorrelated opportunities for investors. Some of them have seen the listing which will only continue the democratization and increased awareness we spoke of earlier.

Impact investing & overall mindfulness getting built up around ESG space by UHNI & Family office clients are noteworthy. They are incrementally growing and getting inclined towards more sustainable, responsible investing which compliments either dear to them or otherwise.

Uncorrelated, non-directional and risk mitigating market neutral or long-short strategies are gaining rapid prominence. India now comprises some quality pool of hedge fund managers with varied skill sets and track record and this will continue to be on rise. Valuation conundrum, intermittent volatility and information asymmetry is a hallmark of our capital market unlike the developed world, and that very well paves the path of deep penetration of such strategies.

Do you think investment through Gift City is a good option for HNIs

The GIFT City is increasingly becoming an attractive avenue for high net-worth individuals (HNIs) who are looking for diversification in their investments, tax efficiency, and access to global markets.

By virtue of being a separate jurisdiction, the GIFT City enables investors to access international markets with minimal Indian regulatory constraints. GIFT City also offers significant tax incentives to fund managers and investors. Fund managers have the option to choose any 10 consecutive years out of a total of 15 years for tax exemption on capital gains and interest income. The investors can avail exemption from the levy of STT, GST and stamp duty with respect to transactions carried out on IFSC exchanges.

An area of significant interest for HNIs is the ability to gain overseas exposure via the multiple outbound funds mushrooming in GIFT City. These funds have varied investment strategies across different asset classes and geographies and enable investors to appropriately diversify their portfolios.

Another beneficial aspect about regulations pertaining to GIFT City is that a person resident in India (such as a private limited company or LLP) may make a contribution up to 50% of its net worth (by way of Overseas Portfolio Investment) to an investment fund vehicle set up in GIFT City invest with the objective of offshore investments.

Do you believe disclosure rules in India are becoming too difficult for HNIs investing in overseas funds or through Indian funds?

Regulatory overhaul around increased reporting or vigilance is a structural effort to ensure complete and accurate disclosures of overseas assets, monitor breach of limits and other associated risks. We continue to see regulators making it a balancing act at large. We have GIFT city as one of the mainstream avenues with continued refinement around the broader modalities. The Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) as a primary and dominant landscape has witnessed necessary alignments. Hence, while it's a work in progress but directional roadmap so far is encouraging. We are likely to witness consistent efforts to bring parity around disclosures & associated best practices with time

How have the recent tax changes in the budget affected HNI investment in India?

The tax reforms in Budget 2024 will indeed reshape the broader investment landscape as we move along, but they also present HNI investors with the opportunity to manoeuvre their investment strategies. These changes are intended to streamline the taxation structure across asset classes and promote more efficient capital allocation.

It is likely to bring greater thrust on critical qualitative aspects like meritocracy of the offering, end objective, its fitment & relevance from an allocation point of view. Despite a slight rise in the capital gains tax on listed equities, investor sentiment remains largely unaffected, underscoring the market's resilience and appeal.

The removal of indexation benefits on property initially raised concerns within the real estate market. Under the recent proposed changes, the resident Indian (RI) property owners who acquired properties before July 23, 2024, will have the option to either pay a reduced tax rate of 12.5% without indexation or continue with the existing 20% rate that includes indexation benefits. Sales in high-end real estate have largely remained unaffected, with industry experts noting minimal impact on overall transaction volumes. Moreover, this policy shift has contributed to creating a more level playing field across various asset classes.

Notably, the start-up ecosystem is set to play an instrumental role in transforming India into a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047. The significant thrust provided by the government through policy changes, including the recent abolishment of the "Angel Tax," has come as a huge relief to the start-up ecosystem and the investor community.

Skill against spin hasn't gone down, says Gambhir

Head coach Gautam Gambhir on Thursday refuted claims that Indian batters' skill set against quality spin bowling has deteriorated over the last few years but felt that the slam-bang nature of T20 cricket has affected players' defence. "The more T20 cricket is played, the less people will start defending," he said.

SEEKING A TURN AROUND

With a long away series ahead, India will be keen to get back to winning ways at Wankhede

GOMESH S @ Mumbai

IF you are an India fan still looking back at what happened at the Maharashtra Cricket Stadium in Pune on Sunday, pinching yourself and wondering whether the hosts had actually lost a Test series at home, don't worry. You are not alone. Such has been their home record that, this loss, albeit it was supposed to happen at some point, feels out of the blue.

However, all good things come to an end. And as the fans, players and everyone in the fraternity are letting it sink in, the Indian team management has little time to sulk. They are in Mumbai for the third and final Test of the series, looking for a quick turnaround. For this match is not just about avoiding a clean sweep at home, which has happened only once in the past (0-2 against South Africa in 2000), but also putting the loss behind and going to Australia with a win under their belt.

India's captain Rohit Sharma during a practice session ahead of their third Test against New Zealand at Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai, Thursday

> **Simple. Try and win. That's as simple as it can get, and more importantly, when we go to Australia we should have a win under our belt.**
>
> Gautam Gambhir, head coach, on what India is focusing on

Head coach Gautam Gambhir admitted as much at the pre-match press conference on Thursday. "Simple, try and win (on what they want to take away from the match). That's as simple as it can get, and more importantly, when we go to Australia we should have a win under our belt," said Gambhir.

While it does seem as simple as that, achieving it is not going to be easy. New Zealand have momentum on their side and they are as confident as they have ever been on their approach and plans. Their spinners — Mitchell Santner in particular — have breached the defences of India's batting juggernaut and will be keen to do it all over again on the red soil surface that is expected to offer significant assistance sooner than later. And Gambhir knows it too. Which is why, he did not shy away from the fact that India will have to iron out everything before taking the field on Friday. He acknowledged that the loss hurt the players and team management, saying that it was a good thing.

"Every time you lose a game, be it at home or be it away from home, it should hurt. That hurt will make us better. What's wrong with being in that position? And the more, especially for the youngsters, it's hurting them, I'm sure they're going to push themselves to keep getting better because that is exactly what we want them to be. Pushing themselves every day to be a better cricketer and to do something special, because if we have results like what we had in Kanpur, then might as well have results like this and take that hurt and keep moving forward."

However, to move forward, India batters should not be repeating the mistakes and bat for longer periods of time, especially against Santner and Ajaz Patel. A lot will depend on the opening pair of Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal, but what will be interesting to see is if K L Rahul comes back into the playing XI or they stick with Sarfaraz Khan who knows the conditions better than most in the team.

The bigger question that remains is whether Jasprit Bumrah will take the field on Friday. The senior pacer had a long discussion with Rohit on the sidelines of the training on Wednesday but did not hit the strides and bowl in the nets.

About two weeks ago, when India took the field at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, no one expected them to be in this position come the third Test. But it is what is. All they can do is to try and put the loss behind and start a new cycle of dominance. Whether they do so or not, we will have the answer over the next few days.

POINTS TO PONDER

AS INDIA LOOK TO AVOID A CLEAN SWEEP AGAINST NEW ZEALAND IN THE THIRD TEST IN MUMBAI, TNIE TAKES A LOOK AT SOME KEY TALKING POINTS...

EYES ON ROHIT

For the first time since his debut series in 2013, Rohit Sharma will be playing a Test at his home ground. And the Indian captain will be hoping that it brings good fortune and some runs, for he has been on a rut this home season. India would want a big innings from him to set the tone up front.

PITCH TALK

India head coach Gautam Gambhir defined it as a good surface where batters can pile on the runs once they get their eye in. But a lot of grass has been shaved off the surface over the past two days, and expect things to be on fast forward the moment ball starts turning.

HISTORY BECKONS NZ

No team have ever come to India and beaten them in all Tests of a series (three matches or above. SA won a two-Test series in 2000). Tom Latham has a chance to not just make history but also to take home some crucial WTC points and keep their chances of making the final mathematically alive.

> **Coming here we wanted to keep things simple, play our brand of cricket and give ourselves a good chance. It's just shown us that we can be successful in these conditions**
>
> Tom Latham, NZ captain

1983 - The last time India lost three Tests in a series at home (West Indies beat India 3-0 in a six-match series)

INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND, 3RD TEST, MUMBAI, LIVE ON SPORTS18 AND JIOCINEMA FROM 9.30 AM

Shreyas, Rishabh and Rahul set to light up IPL mega auction

GOMESH S @Mumbai

AS the deadline for Indian Premier League retentions ended on Thursday evening, one thing was clear. KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer — three IPL captains, including the one who won the title less than six months ago — are set to light up the mega auction later this month.

The news does not come as a big surprise as murmurs and speculations have been doing the rounds for more than a week. A change in Delhi Capitals management, fallout between Rahul and Lucknow Super Giants management, and Kolkata looking for their most valuable all-rounders meant three proven IPL stars are left to find a new house at the auction.

The last time Rahul went under the hammer was in 2018 when Punjab signed him for ₹11 crore. Pant hasn't been through an auction since he was first signed by Capitals in 2016 for ₹1.9 crore. Iyer, who was signed by Kolkata Knight Riders for ₹12.25 crore in 2022, led them to the title this year.

What makes it all the more interesting is the retentions of the other teams and the options they have in the auction. Punjab Kings, for example, have the biggest purse of ₹110.5 crore and are expected to go after Pant, especially with Ricky Ponting joining as head coach. There are other teams who will be eyeing the India keeper as well, such as Chennai Super Kings. However, with their five retentions — including M S Dhoni as uncapped player — it might be difficult for them to match the price at the auction.

Rahul, meanwhile, could find a home at Royal Challengers Bengaluru as they are likely to go hard for the local lad. Having already retained Virat Kohli for ₹21 crore, they have ₹83 crore in the purse to build a team for the future. Iyer, meanwhile, could come back to Delhi with the captaincy spot opening up after the release of Pant. None of that could be said for sure as IPL auctions are always unpredictable. A lot will depend on whose name comes up when and how much teams have left in their purse at the time.

Some teams, meanwhile, have gone all-in with their key players, keeping the core in tact. CSK have retained their captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, Matheesha Pathirana, Ravindra Jadeja and Shivam Dube along with Dhoni. Mumbai Indians have managed to retain their core group of players barring Ishan Kishan. Which means, Rohit Sharma, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma will remain in blue. Having already retained five capped Indians, Mumbai cannot use the Right To Match for Kishan at the auction.

Similarly, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals too have made sure their star signings remain with them. Among them, Heinrich Klaasen will be the highest paid player having been retained by SRH for ₹23 crore. As things stand, it is hard to look past Iyer, Pant and Rahul. For whoever signs them will be building their squad around the respective player.

STARS RETAINED

CAPTAINS ENTERING AUCTION

SHREYAS IYER

K L RAHUL

RISHABH PANT

MI
Bumrah (₹18 cr)
Surya (₹16.35 cr)
Hardik (₹16.35 cr)
Rohit (₹16.3 cr)
Tilak (₹8 cr)

CSK
Dhoni (₹4 cr)
Gaikwad (₹18 cr)
Pathirana (₹13 cr)
Dube (₹12 cr)
Jadeja (₹18 cr)

PBKS
Shashank (₹5.5 cr)
Prabhsimran (₹4 cr)

RCB
Kohli (₹21 cr)
Rajat (₹11 cr)
Dayal (₹5 cr)

RR
Samson (₹18 cr)
Jaiswal (₹18 cr)
Parag (₹14 cr)
Jurel (₹14 cr)
Hetmyer (₹11 cr)
Sandeep (₹4 cr)

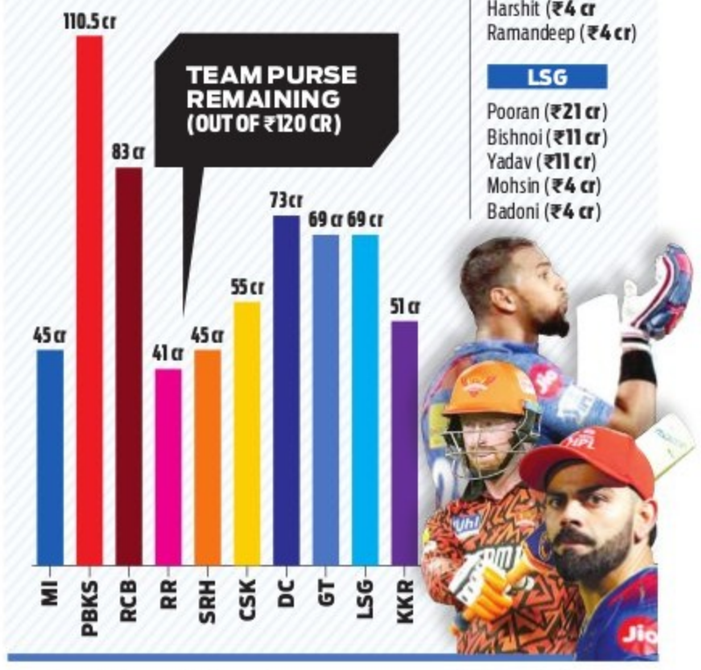
SRH
Klaasen (₹23 cr),
Cummins (₹18 cr)
Abhishek (₹14 cr)
Head (₹14 cr)
Nitish (₹6 cr)

DC
Axar (₹16.5 cr)
Kuldeep (₹13.25 cr)
Stubbs (₹10 cr)
Abishek (₹4 cr)

GT
Rashid (₹18 cr)
Gill (₹16.5 cr)
Sai Sudharsan (₹8.5 cr)
Tewatia (₹4 cr)
Shahrukh (₹4 cr)

KKR
Rinku (₹13 cr)
Varun (₹12 cr)
Narine (₹12 cr)
Russell (₹12 cr)
Harshit (₹4 cr
Ramandeep (₹4 cr)

LSG
Pooran (₹21 cr)
Bishnoi (₹11 cr)
Yadav (₹11 cr)
Mohsin (₹4 cr)
Badoni (₹4 cr)



HOW BADLY MAN UNITED STRUGGLED UNDER TEN HAG

AP @ Manchester

MANCHESTER United, the record 20-time English champion, is searching for a sixth permanent manger since the retirement of Alex Ferguson in 2013 following the firing of Erik ten Hag.

Here are the statistics that show how low things got at United under Ten Hag — and what his successor will need to improve on:

Worst start

The break for international matches this month offered a chance to assess each Premier League team's start to the season, and it didn't make good reading for United. After seven games, United had collected eight points — its fewest in the Premier League era (since 1992) by that stage of a season and its lowest tally since the team had seven points from seven games in the 1989-90 season. Ten Hag's team was in 14th place in the 20-team top division at that point. With a win and a loss since then, United remains in 14th — already 12 points off first-place Manchester City.

Worst finish

Last season, Ten Hag led United to its worst finish — eighth place — in the Premier League era. United had to go back to that 1989-90 season for a lower finish, and that was 13th place under Alex Ferguson in the year he reportedly came close to losing his job.

European failure

It didn't get any better in Europe for Ten Hag. United finished in last place in its Champions League group

last season even though it contained outsiders like FC Copenhagen and Galatasaray. United conceded 15 goals in that group, the most goals it has ever conceded in a single Champions League group stage. It was also a record for an English club. This season, United has drawn each of its three games in the revamped Europa League, against FC Twente, Porto and Fenerbahce — leaving the team in 21st place in the 36-team league, sandwiched between Viktoria Plzen and Elfsborg.

Where are the goals?

"Attack, attack, attack" is the chant that has often been heard swirling around Old Trafford down the years but goals were hard to come by under Ten Hag. With eight goals from its opening nine games, United is currently the third-lowest scorer in the Premier League, with only Crystal Palace and Southampton having fewer. Last season, United was tied in ninth place in the list of top scorers in the Premier League with 57 goals. Since the start of the 2023-24 season, United has a goal difference of minus 4, having scored 65 goals and conceded 69.

Porous defence

United conceded 58 goals in the league last season — its most in the Premier League era — and there are more stats to highlight Ten Hag's inability to bring defensive shape to his team. Since Ten Hag's arrival midway through 2022, United conceded three goals in a game on 24 occasions — more than any manager since Ferguson's retirement. According to Opta, the Premier League's stats supplier, United has faced 1,739 shots in their 128 games under Erik ten Hag. Man City has faced 717 fewer shots despite playing six more games in that time.

Late goals

According to Opta, seven of Ten Hag's 27 losses came via a winner in the 90th minute or later. The last of those came in what proved to be Ten Hag's final game in charge, when Jarrod Bowen converted a penalty in second minute of stoppage time to earn West Ham a 2-1 victory.

Embarrassing loss

Ten Hag's tenure got off to a dreadful start with back-to-back losses to Brighton and Brentford in the Premier League in the 2022-23 season. The 4-0 loss at Brentford was arguably the worst under Ten Hag until United arrived at Anfield for a match against its fiercest rival, Liverpool, last season. United lost 7-0 for its heaviest defeat to Liverpool and its worst competitive defeat in more than 90 years.

Wiser and full of hope, top-order batter Shweta seeking good returns

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

SINCE winning the maiden U19 World Cup with the most runs in the tournament, Shweta Sehrawat has seen many ups and downs. Whether it was winning the Women's Emerging Asia Cup in Hong Kong or representing UP Warriorz in two seasons of the Women's Premier League without many runs to show, Sehrawat has seen it all. Through all of these experiences, she has opted to look at the positives from the journey so far.

So when she was included in the India A squad that toured Australia earlier this year, the 20-year-old knew she had to make the most of this golden opportunity. "When we found out that we were going to Australia for the A tour, I was really excited," the UP Warriorz top order batter told this daily. "I personally had never travelled to Australia before. I have played cricket in Hong Kong and South Africa, but I was excited about visiting the new place. From the experience point of view, it was about getting to know the different conditions and getting used to new wickets. I had a bit of an idea about how the conditions were going to be," she said

"I was in reserves for India during the Asia Cup and I could ask Harry di (captain Harmanpreet Kaur) and Smriti di (vice-captain Smriti Mandhana) about what to expect from those conditions. Even got some help from Shafali Verma. So they spoke about how the wickets in Australia are skiddy and bouncy. So I had a fair idea about the challenge," she added.

Sehrawat even spoke about the first practice session where it was challenging for her to

Shweta Sehrawat (R) with her India A teammate Raghvi Bist | INSTAGRAM

catch the ball given how clear the sky was.

"I still remember the first practice session in Australia. We were doing high catching and the sky there was a little too clear so it was getting a bit hard to judge where the ball actually was. The ball was not travelling too much, so it took us a bit of time to adjust to those conditions. We also got to spend some time and share experiences with a few Australian players as well. We were able to have a few chats with Australian all-rounder Tess Flintoff and wicketkeeper-batter Nicole Faltum," she mentioned.

One of the challenging parts of the multi-format series against Australia was the unofficial Test match, which for Seherawat was the most efficient way to learn about how the red ball functions on the bouncy pitch."I got to learn more about the red ball on this tour. A red ball is usually on the heavier side and it turns and swings more compared to the white ball, so one has to adjust their game according to that. The intent remains the same, but one needs to adjust a bit while playing in the longest format. We got the opportunity to learn about how we should approach the game and build more partnerships, I got to learn," Sehrawat explained.

With the two seasons of WPL under her belt, the Delhi batter is aware of the chances she has received from UP. She also thanked coach Jon Lewis and captain Alyssa Healy for having her back. "I consider myself lucky that I got the opportunity to play in the domestic league this early in my career and I have received a lot of support from our franchise. As cricketers, we face ups and downs and they have been by our side in all of that time. I think, Jon Lewis has been a great influence. I enjoy working with him. His way of cricket is aggressive. Whether it is batting, bowling, or even fielding, he pushes us to become aggressive considering what the situation is. Alyssa is calm on and off the field. I remember during the season, misfielding happened from my side and it did cost us two runs. At that time, she spoke with me and said you can do better. We know you can do that. I appreciated that support and I fielded better after that."

With the women's U23 T20 Trophy coming soon, followed by the third installation of WPL, the youngster hopes to convert all of her off-season hard yards into runs. "Whatever problems I faced in the previous seasons, and the feedback I have gotten from there, I have tried to work hard on solving them in the off-season. I have worked on them through open nets and match simulations and I hope it helps me," she signed off.

Test series win vs India: Cummins' bucket list

AGENCIES @ Sydney

PAT Cummins has never been part of a victorious Test series campaign against India, and the Australian captain wants to erase that blemish from his CV during the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy, starting with the first match at Perth from November 22. Under the leadership of 31-year-old, Australia have won the World Test Championship, the ODI World Cup, both beating the Indians, and the Ashes, but never managed to beat India in a bilateral rubber in the traditional format.

"It's kind of the one big thing that I want to tick off," Cummins told *AAP* at the launch of his book on Tuesday. "Particularly winning at home. Most Australians, me included, expect us to do well whenever we play at home," added Cummins. India are the only team Australia have failed to defeat in their last 16 Test series.

Since 2014-15, Australia could not lay their hands on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, with India winning four consecutive series including the historic triumphs Down Under in 2018-19 and 2020-21. "We've lost the (last) two series against them (in Australia), so this is a big one. We feel like our team's in a really good place, so we've got no reason why we shouldn't perform really well." India remain the only Asian nation to beat the Australia at their home in a Test series but the tourists will be under pressure heading into the marquee tournament, having suffered their first home series loss since 2012 to New Zealand.

NTT DATA has expanded partnership with cybersecurity firm Palo Alto Networks to help global enterprises safeguard their digital infrastructures. "Many organisations rely on fragmented security systems, making it harder to detect advanced threats, and react quickly," Sheetal Mehta, global head of cybersecurity at NTT DATA, said

AI GENERATED CYBERATTACKS CREATE NEW HEADACHE FOR BUSINESSES

"As cyber threats evolve, the effective implementation of a cyber strategy increasingly relies on automation and AI"

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

With a notable increase in cyberattacks, especially artificial intelligence (AI)-generated attacks, organisations need to prioritise raising awareness about rising cyber threats and fortify their defences accordingly.

These AI attacks, API (application programming interface) risks and phishing top the list of worries for chief information security officers (CISOs), says HCLTech's The Global Cyber Resilience Study 2024-25.

Nearly 80% of the security leaders across industries and countries anticipate a cyberattack on their organisations in the next 12 months while only 48% believe they can prevent one.

About 54% of the security leaders identify AI-generated attacks as the biggest security risk and 76% of the security leaders faced high to moderate challenges in resuming business fully in the aftermath of a cyberattack.

Malicious actors have increasingly turned to AI to analyse and refine their attack strategies, thereby increasing the likelihood of executing successful phishing/social engineering and ransomware attacks.

Industries brace for AI threats

The report points out that different industries are facing distinct cybersecurity challenges as attack methods evolve. In manufacturing, 58% of security leaders worry about AI-generated attacks that could disrupt essential production operations, threatening the industry's resilience. For Life Sciences and Healthcare, ransomware is the top concern to the PII (personally identifiable information) and PHI (protected health information) data, with 60% viewing it as the biggest threat. In financial services, API vulnerabilities are a major worry for 56%, as these can lead to significant data breaches or outages.

"Building a strong digital foundation for modern organisations requires robust prevention, response and recovery capabilities against cyberattacks. With AI-driven threats on the rise and recovery becoming more complex, adopting a strategy centered on comprehensive resilience is essential. This includes investing in cyber resilience solutions, zero-trust controls and AI-assisted automation, and streamlining security tools through a platform-based approach," said Jagadeshwar Gattu, president, digital foundation services, HCLTech.

"In the next one to two years, the primary goals of cybersecurity budgets are to improve compliance and move to real-time risk management, with security leaders predicting an average budget increase of 11%," the report said. These firms' investment priorities include improving compliance and risk management, SOC (Security Operations Center) automation, incident response and recovery, and threat intelligence.

The report also highlights cyber automation, which is automatically detecting, investigating and remediating cyber threats—with or without human intervention— using a programmatic solution designed for that purpose.

"Cybersecurity is a strategic capability for businesses—and CISOs and CROs (Chief Risk Officers) must serve as a critical bridge between the board and technology/business teams, transitioning to real-time risk governance and control execution to manage rapidly changing threat landscapes. As cyber threats evolve daily, the effective implementation of a cyber strategy increasingly relies on automation and AI," said Amit Jain, executive vice-president and global head, cybersecurity services, HCLTech.

Top IAM tech firms will invest

In the next one to two years, top digital identity or Identity and Access Management (IAM) technologies that organisations will invest in include identity governance, customer identity and access management, multi-factor authentication and single sign-on and machine identity and access management.

9 out of 10 smartphones priced above $250 will be GenAI-capable by 2028: Report

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

Nine out of 10 smartphones priced above $250 will be GenAI-capable by 2028, signalling the widespread adoption of Generative AI, says a new report by Counterpoint Research. The paper also projects that GenAI smartphone shipments will exceed 730 million units by 2028, more than thrice the estimated volume for 2024. The smartphone industry is moving toward hyper-personalisation driven by Generative AI. The impact has been significant within just a year of the release of the first GenAI-capable phone.

"The industry is shifting focus from traditional hardware advancements, such as bigger screens, faster processors and more cameras, to offering more intelligent, adaptive and personalized user experiences," reads the report.

The document also notes that hyper-personalisation, which has started with premium smartphones, will eventually extend to high-, mid-, and low-end devices as GenAI technology matures. In 2024 and 2025, the premium smartphone segment (wholesale price above $600) is expected to be a major driver of GenAI smartphone shipments, contributing around 80% of the total volume.

The report emphasises that as OEMs continue to refine and promote GenAI capabilities, its appeal will grow. Initially, most GenAI adoption will be concentrated in premium smartphones, but by 2026 and 2027, it will expand into the high ($400-$599) and mid-to-high ($250-$399) price segments. "The high and mid-to-high segments are expected to contribute around 30% of GenAI smartphone shipments in 2026 and 2027, largely driven by Chinese brands," the report states.

The smartphone industry is accelerating the democratisation of GenAI by driving innovations in hardware and software, making the technology more accessible even in lower-priced smartphones. For instance, chipset manufacturers such as Qualcomm are introducing GenAI-optimised processors in their mid- and high-end portfolios, while leading companies in the LLM space are developing lighter models with various optimisation techniques to ensure high performance.

The report also notes that smartphone OEMs are actively promoting GenAI to enhance the overall user experience. They have even begun delivering software upgrades for older smartphones to provide a glimpse of GenAI capabilities. This momentum is expected to drive the adoption of GenAI in the sub-$250 segment by 2027 and 2028, further boosting shipment growth.

TECHNOLOGY BUZZ

Samsung unveils festive offers on Galaxy Z Fold6 and Z Flip6 in India

Samsung has lined up festival offers on its sixth-generation foldable smartphones, the Galaxy Z Fold6 and Galaxy Z Flip6. Starting from Wednesday, the Galaxy Z Fold6 can be bought for `1,44,999 with a 24-month no-cost EMI option, while the Galaxy Z Flip6 is available for `89,999 under the same EMI plan. Additionally, customers can purchase the Galaxy Z Assurance program for `999, significantly lower than its original price, which provides device protection and allows two claims per year. Both devices feature a sleek design, enhanced durability with Armor Aluminum and Corning Gorilla Glass Victus 2, and are powered by the Snapdragon® 8 Gen 3 Mobile Platform for Galaxy, optimising performance and AI capabilities. The Galaxy Z Fold6 boasts a 7.6-inch display and advanced gaming features, while the Z Flip6 offers a 3.4-inch Super AMOLED FlexWindow for quick interactions. The two models are available in multiple colors and can be purchased from leading online and offline retailers.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, BENGALURU
BSNL Building 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

DRC No. 7412 Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

Canara Bank, Indiranagar Branch, No. 628/1, Indiranagar, 1st Stage, Bengaluru- 560 038. ...Certificate Holder
Versus
Sri Ramesh Kamath and Another ...Certified Debtors

DEMAND NOTICE

To
1.Sri Ramesh Kamath S/o. Sri Devaraja Kamath, No. 17/B, 2nd Cross,, Yelachenahalli, J. P. Nagar, Kanakanagar, Bengaluru - 560 078.
2. Sri A. M. Venkatesh S/o. Sri Madanaika, No. 41/118, Rama Rao Layout, 2nd Phase, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 085.
In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A. No.145/2011** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru on 27.11.2013 an amount of **Rs.16,54,243/-** (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Three Only) is due against you along with interest and costs from date of O.A.s till relaization.
You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.
In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay :
a)Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.
b)All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **06.02.2019.**

Sd/- (Deepainduvani S)Recovery Officer- II
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I, Bengaluru

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:
"Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, KARNATAKA
4th Floor, Telephone House Building Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))
DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 as amended

RC No. 133/2024 IN OA No. 1343/2015
CANARA BANK V/s SRI S. T. VASAN & ANR

In the matter of (CH 1) Canara Bank , Magadi Road Branch, No. 1/1, Ground Floor, Radhakrishna Complex, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 010. ... Applicant Bank/Certificate Holder
Vs
(CD 1) Sri S. T. Vasan S/o. Late P. Selvam, No. 1043, 1st Floor, 4th Block, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560 010.
(CD 2) Sri. Marudayan S/o. Late P. Selvam, 16, 2nd Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 023. ....Defendants/Certificate Debtors
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT-1) in **OA /1343/2015** an amount of **Rs.4969450/-** (Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousands Four Hundred Fifty Only) along with cost, expenses and future interest @ 9 % p.a. Simple Interest w.e.f. 24.06.2015 till realization and costs of Rs.118005/- (Rupees One Lakhs EighteenThousand and Five Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully/Limited).

CD Name	Int. Type/ mode	Int. Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Libility Type	RC Amount (Rs.)
(CD1):Sri S. T . Vasan	Simple Interest	9% p.a	24.06.2015	24.05.2023	Jointly & Severally	4969450
(CD2):Sri Marudayan	Simple Interest	9% p.a	24.06.2015	24.05.2023	Jointly & Severally	4969450

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. **3.**You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4.** You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings. **5.** In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **07.06.2024.**

Sd/- (Sanjiv Kumar) Recovery Officer -1
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, Bangalore

KARANATAKA STATE LAW UNIVERSITY'S LAW SCHOOL
NAVANAGAR HUBBALLI - 25
Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

2 Year LL.M. ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2024- 25
Applications are invited for 2yr LL.M. (Constitutional Law, Intellectual Property Rights Laws and Criminal Law) for Academic Year 2024-25

Last date for submission of filled in application form to KSLU's Law School	16-11-2024
Announcement of list of selected candidate on merit cum reservation basis	20-11-2024
Date of commencement of classes for 'Odd' semester	27-11-2024

Minimum Qualification:
LL.B with 45% Aggregate Marks (SC/ST 40%)
Application Forms may be obtained from the Office of the Karnataka State Law University's Law School, Navanagar, Hubballi - 580 025, by paying an application fee of Rs. 500/- (for SC/St Rs 250/-) through Bank Challan, SBI Online Challan.
OR
Application can also be downloaded from the Website www.kslu.karnataka.gov.in and filled Application shall be submitted along with the Bank Challan, SBI Online Challan to The **Director, KSLU's Law School, Navanagar, Hubballi - 580025.**
Contact Details: 0836-2956072
For more details refer website www.kslu.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Dwd/569/DeshpandePublicity/2024-25 **Sd/- Director**

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders are invited for the supply of following items.
(1) 79439 - Installation, Testing & Commissioning of LED Flood/ Integral Lantern, (2) 79444 - Purchase of 1Cx25 Sq.mm Aluminium Conductor Cables in various colours,

Re – invited e-tenders
(3) 79314, (4) 79337 (Corrigendum), (5) 78103.

Note: For more details, log on to website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

PRO/DMM/79/2024 **GENERAL MANAGER**

LOST OF DOCUMENTS
This is to inform you that we have lost the Original Licence issued by **RESERVE BANK OF INDIA** Dated: 17th October 2022. If someone finds it please return it to us at our below address. Lost Report No. 1312933/2024.
BANGALORE CLASSIC TOURS AND TRAVELS PVT LTD.
No. 41, A J CHAMBERS, R.V. ROAD, BASAVANAGUDI, BENGALURU-560004.

Can Fin Homes Ltd
"SAJINI", # 69 (Old No.35)
Ground Floor, 12th Main
Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bangalore-560011
Mob:7625079101, Ph: 080-26630501
E-mail Id: jayanagar@canfinhomes.com
CIN:L85110KA1987PLC008699

Can Fin Homes Ltd (Sponsor: CANARA BANK) HOME LOANS * DEPOSITS
JAYANAGAR BRANCH

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
[Proviso to rule 8(6)]
SALE NOTICE for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., **Jayanagar Branch**, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **06.12.2024,** for recovery of mentioned hereinafter due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from respective Borrowers and Guarantors as on the respective dates together with further interest and other charges thereon.

Sl. No.	Name of the borrower & Guarantor	Demand Notice date	Amount as on liability	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Type of Possession	Description of the Property
1	**Mr.Ramachandran N** S/o Nallusamy S (Borrower) **Mrs.Krishnaveni R** W/o Mr. Ramachandran N (Co- Borrower)	31.03.2018	**Rs. 58,80,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only) as on 31.10.2024	**Rs. 29,50,000/-** (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only)	**Rs. 2,95,000/-** (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Only)	Physical	Flat No 301 (TF),"VASU PRADHA"property No 34 & B39, BBMP Katha No 336/34/ 338&337/39/339, Sy No.122/1, Channasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore. Boundaries : East: Flat No. 300 (Road), West : Stair Case (Road), North : Open to Sky (Property belong to BMEL Society), South: Open to Sky (Property bearing No. 35 & 38) Known Encumbrances if any:Nil
2	**Mr. P. Diwakar** S/o. Prakash (Borrower) **Mrs. Divya D .C.** W/o. P. Diwakar (Co- Borrower)	31.03.2018	**Rs. 62,72,000/-** (Rupees Sixty Two Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Only) as on 31.10.2024	**Rs. 29,00,000/-** (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Only)	**Rs. 2,90,000/-** (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety Thousand Only)	Physical	Flat No 302 (TF),"VASU PRADHA"property No 34 & B39, BBMP Katha No 336/34/ 338&337/39/339, Sy No.122/1, Channasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore. Boundaries : East: Corridor (Road), West : Flat No. 303 (Road), North : Open to Sky (Property belong to BMEL Society), South: Open to Sky (Property bearing No. 35 & 38) Known Encumbrances if any:Nil

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (https://www.canfinhomes.com/Search Auction.aspx). Link for participating in e-auction : https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net

Date : 31.10.2024
Place :Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

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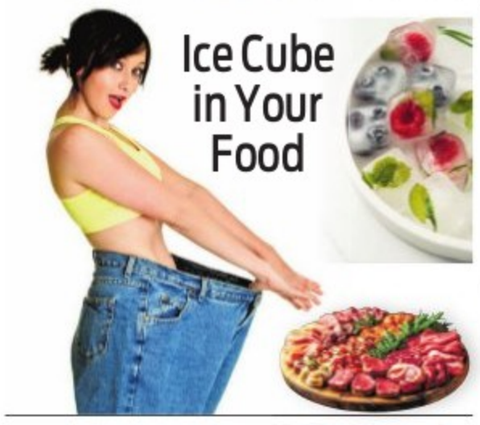

'Gender Should Not Be a Criterion At All'

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